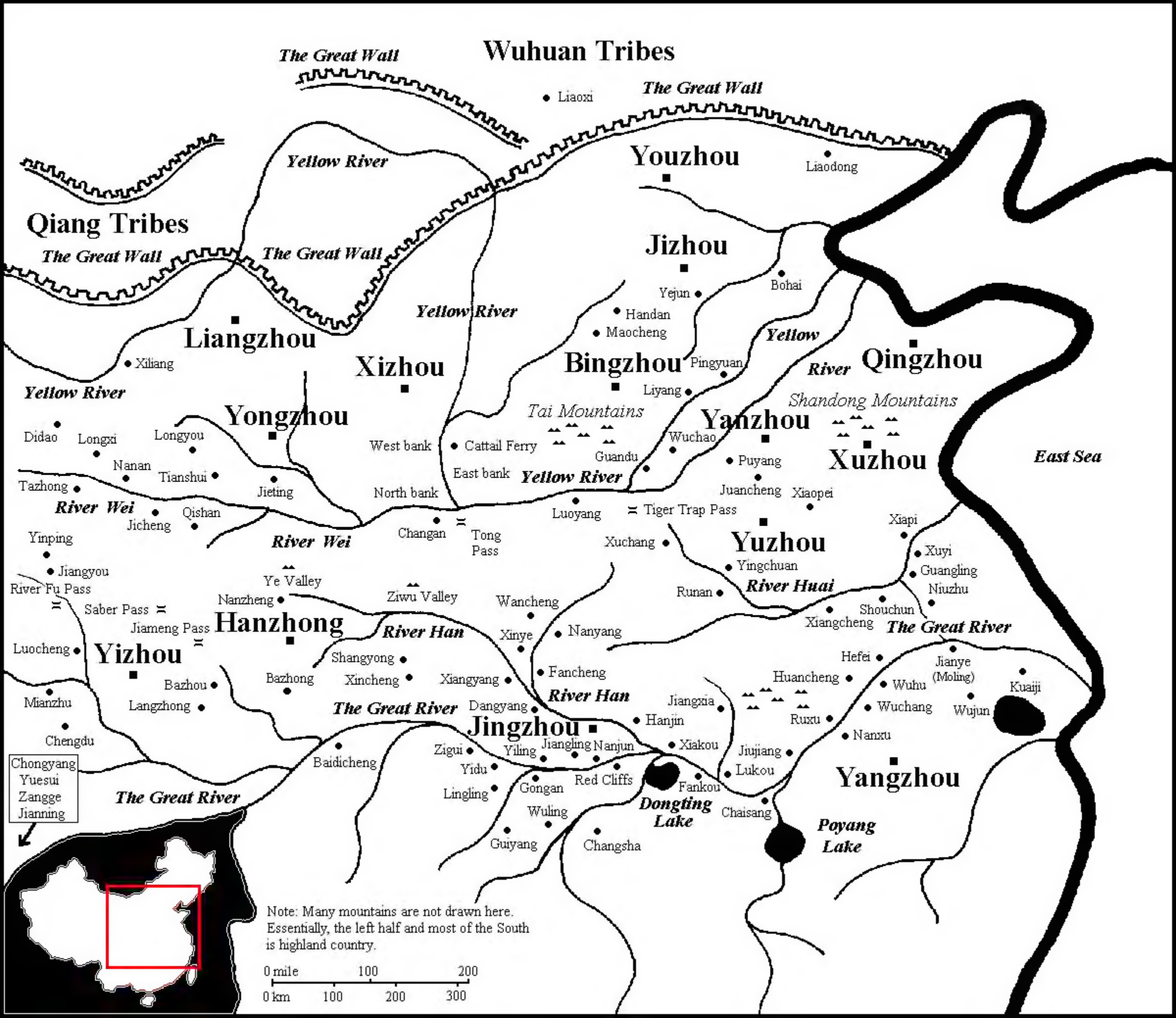
Wuhuan Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Liaoxi
Youzhou
Liaodong
Yellow River
Qiang Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Jizhou
Bohai
Yejun
Handan
Maocheng
Yellow River
Liangzhou
Xizhou
Bingzhou
Pingyuan
Yellow River
Qingzhou
Xiliang
Yellow River
Liyang
Shandong Mountains
Tai Mountains
Yongzhou
Yanzhou
Didao
Longxi
Longyou
West bank
Cattail Ferry
Wuchao
Guandu
Xuzhou
East Sea
Nanan
East bank
Yellow River
Puyang
Tianshui
Tazhong
Jieting
North bank
Juancheng
Xiaopei
River Wei
Qishan
Luoyang
Tiger Trap Pass
Jicheng
Changan
Tong Pass
Xiapi
Yuzhou
Yinping
River Wei
Xuchang
Xuyi
Jiangyou
Ye Valley
Yingchuan
Guangling
River Fu Pass
Ziwu Valley
Runan
River Huai
Niuzhu
Saber Pass
Nanzheng
Wancheng
Shouchun
Jiameng Pass
Hanzhong
River Han
Xinye
Nanyang
Xiangcheng
The Great River
Luocheng
Yizhou
Shangyong
Hefei
Jianye (Moling)
Fancheng
Huancheng
Bazhou
Bazhong
Xincheng
Xiangyang
Wuhu
Kuaiji
River Han
Jiangxia
Mianzhu
Langzhong
The Great River
Dangyang
Wuchang
Wujun
Ruxu
Hanjin
Jingzhou
Chengdu
Nanxu
Zigui
Yiling
Jiangling
Nanjun
Xiakou
Jiujiang
Baidicheng
Yidu
Lukou
Yangzhou
Chongyang
Yuesui
Zangge
Jianning
Red Cliffs
Fankou
Gongan
Lingling
Dongting Lake
Chaisang
Wuling
Poyang Lake
Guiyang
Changsha
The Great River
Note: Many mountains are not drawn here.
Essentially, the left half and most of the South
is highland country.
0 mile 100 200
0 km 100 200 300

三国志 17

関羽の苦闘

横山光輝

希望コミックス62

CHARACTERS OF SANGOKUSHI
PART 1: CHARACTERS TO KEEP IN MIND

CAO CAO MENGDE:

THE AMBITIOUS AND MACHIAVELLIAN HERO OF SANGOKUSHI. AFTER RESCUING THE EMPEROR FROM LI JUE AND GUO SI, HE IS CURRENTLY THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN AND HAS CONTROL OVER THE IMPERIAL COURT.

CHEN DENG:

THE SON OF CHEN GUI AND FORMERLY THE SUBORDINATE TO TAO QIAN OF XUZHOU. EVER SINCE LU BU HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF XUZHOU, HE HAS SERVED LU BU BUT IN NAME ONLY. UNDER CAO CAO'S ORDERS, HE AND HIS FATHER SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL.

CHEN GUI:

FATHER OF CHEN DENG WHO HAS SWORN FALSE ALLEGIANCE TO LU BU. HE AND HIS SON SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED OUT LU BU'S DOWNFALL.

CONSORT HE:

HE JIN'S YOUNGER SISTER. ORIGINALLY A PEASANT, HER BEAUTY WAS NOTICED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS WHO THEN PRESENTED HER TO EMPEROR LING. SHE BECAME EMPEROR LING'S FAVOURITE CONSORT AND GAVE BIRTH TO PRINCE LIU BIAN. SHE AND HER SON WERE REMOVED FROM POWER BY DONG ZHUO AND LATER KILLED BY LI RU.

DIAN WEI:

CAO CAO'S FIERCE GENERAL RENOWNED FOR HIS STRENGTH. HE IS COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS "E LAI," A MIGHTY GENERAL WHO SERVED UNDER KING ZHOU. HE WAS KILLED IN VOLUME 12 DURING ZHANG XIU'S PLOT TO KILL CAO CAO AT WANCHENG.

DIAO CHAN:

A SLAVE GIRL BELONGING TO WANG YUN, BUT HE RAISED THE GIRL MORE OF AS HIS OWN DAUGHTER. IN VOLUME 7, SHE AND WANG YUN PLOTTED TO DISTANCE LU BU FROM DONG ZHUO. SHE KILLED HERSELF AFTER ACCOMPLISHING HER GOAL IN VOLUME 8.

DONG CHENG:

A TRUSTED RETAINER OF EMPEROR XIAN. IN VOLUME 9, HE HELPS THE EMPEROR ESCAPE FROM LI JUE AND GUO SI.

DONG ZHUO:

GOVERNOR OF LIANGZHOU WHO LATER SEIZES CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND SEATS HIMSELF AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN. HE IS DEPICTED AS SADISTIC, CORRUPT, AND RUTHLESS TYRANT. HE WAS KILLED BY HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN, LU BU.

GONGSUN ZAN:

GOVERNOR OF BEIPING WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO. HE WAGED WAR AGAINST YUAN SHAO AFTER THE LATTER TRICKED HIM AND KILLED HIS YOUNGER BROTHER BUT HAS SINCE MADE PEACE WITH YUAN SHAO.

GUAN YU YUNCHANG:

SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER TO LIU BEI AND SWORN OLDER BROTHER TO ZHANG FEI. HE IS AS FIERCE AS GUAN YU BUT IS MORE RESTRAINED AND CALM IN HIS MANNERISMS.

HE JIN:

OLDER BROTHER OF CONSORT HE. ORIGINALLY A SIMPLE BUTCHER, HE BECAME A GENERAL WHEN HIS YOUNGER SISTER BECAME EMPEROR LING'S CONSORT. HE ATTEMPTS TO THE TEN ATTENDANTS BUT IS DISSUADED BY HIS YOUNGER SISTER. HE IS LATER ASSASSINATED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS.

JIA XU:

THE CUNNING STRATEGIST AND ADVISOR TO ZHANG XIU. IN VOLUME 12, HE AND ZHANG XIU PLOTTED A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON CAO CAO.

LIU BEI XUANDE:

THE CENTRAL CHARACTER OF SANGOKUSHI. HE IS A KIND AND VIRTUOUS MAN SAID TO BE THE DESCENDANT OF EMPEROR JING OF HAN. HE HAS SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI. AS OF VOLUME 12, HE IS THE GOVERNOR OF XIAOPEI AND WORKING SECRETLY WITH THE CHEN FAMILY TO BRING DOWN LU BU.

LIU BIAO:

THE GOVERNOR OF JINGZHOU WHO, ALONG WITH YUAN SHAO, TRIED TO KILL SUN JIAN TO RECOVER THE STOLEN IMPERIAL SEAL. HE SUCCESSFULLY THWARTED SUN JIAN'S ATTEMPTS TO TAKE JINGZHOU. HAS CURRENTLY JOINED HANDS WITH ZHANG XIU.

LU BU:

HE IS SAID TO BE THE STRONGEST WARRIOR IN THE LAND WHO RIDES ON THE FASTEST HORSE IN THE LAND, THE RED HARE. HE IS CURRENTLY THE GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU. IN VOLUME 14 WHILE FIGHTING WITH CAO CAO AND LIU BEI'S FORCES, HE WAS BETRAYED BY HIS SUBORDINATES (HOU CHENG, WEI XU, SONG XIAN) WHO HANDED HIM OVER TO CAO CAO AND WAS EXECUTED.

SUN JIAN:

BORN IN WU COMMANDERY AND WAS THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHA. HE PARTICIPATED IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO IN VOLUME 5. WHEN HE FOUND THE IMPERIAL SEAL, HIS ALLIES YUAN SHAO AND LIU BIAO ATTEMPTED TO KILL HIM TO RETRIEVE THE SEAL. IN VOLUME 7, HE TRIED TO EXACT HIS REVENGE BY ATTACKING LIU BIAO BUT WAS KILLED IN BATTLE.

SUN CE:

ELDEST SON OF SUN JIAN. AFTER LENDING YUAN SHU THE IMPERIAL SEAL TO BORROW AN ARMY, HE SUCCESSFULLY CONQUERED THE SOUTHEASTERN REGIONS OF JIANGNAN AND JIANGDONG.

SUN QUAN:

YOUNGER BROTHER OF SUN CE.

TAISHI CI:

SUN CE'S TRUSTED GENERAL, FORMERLY LIU YAO'S SUBORDINATE BUT LATER SWITCHED SIDES TO BECOME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE AFTER HE WAS CAPTURED.

TEN ATTENDANTS:

A CORRUPT GROUP OF 10 EUNUCHS WHO WERE THE HIGHEST RANKING MINISTERS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT. THEY SUCCEEDED IN ASSASSINATING GENERAL HE JIN BUT WERE LATER KILLED BY HE JIN'S ARMY LED BY YUAN SHAO.

WANG YUN:

AN OLD MAN WHO HOLDS THE POST OF MINISTER OF THE MASSES, ONE OF THE 3 HIGHEST RANKING POSTS IN HAN. HE SUCCESSFULLY PLOTS DONG ZHUO'S DOWNFALL. HE IS LATER KILLED BY REMNANTS OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMY WHO INVADE CHANG'AN (UNSHOWN IN MANGA)

WEN CHOU:

HE AND YAN LIANG ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS.

YAN LIANG:

HE AND WEN CHOU ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS.

XU CHU:

FORMERLY A PEASANT, HIS TALENTS WERE NOTICED BY CAO CAO WHO THEN TURNED HIM INTO ONE OF HIS SUBORDINATES. HE IS NOW A GENERAL SERVING UNDER CAO CAO.

YUAN SHAO:

ORIGINALLY AN ADVISOR TO HE JIN, HE LEFT THE CAPITAL AND BECAME THE GOVERNOR OF BOHAI COMMANDERY WHEN DONG ZHUO CAME TO RULE OVER LUOYANG. HE IS CURRENTLY THE GOVERNOR OF JIZHOU.

YUAN SHU:

YOUNGER BROTHER OF YUAN SHAO AND THE GOVERNOR OF NANYANG. AFTER RECEIVING THE IMPERIAL SEAL FROM SUN CE, HE HAS DECLARED HIMSELF AS THE EMPEROR OF ZHONG DYNASTY. IN VOLUME 15, HE DIED OF THIRST AFTER BEING ATTACKED BY LIU BEI AND CAO CAO'S ARMY.

XIAHOU DUN:

ONE OF CAO CAO'S GENERALS. IN VOLUME 13, HE LOSES HIS LEFT EYE TO AN ENEMY ARROW DURING A BATTLE AGAINST LU BU'S FORCES.

ZHANG FEI YIDE:

A FIERCE, SHORT-TEMPERED WARRIOR WHO IS THE SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER OF LIU BEI AND GUAN YU.

ZHAO YUN ZILONG:

A FORMER RETAINER TO YUAN SHAO BUT HE IS NOW UNDER GONGSUN ZAN'S SERVICE. HE WISHES TO BE LIU BEI'S RETAINER, HOWEVER.

CHARACTERS OF SANGOKUSHI

PART 2: MINOR CHARACTERS

CAO HONG:

A GENERAL SERVING UNDER CAO CAO WHO IS ALSO HIS COUSIN. HE SAVED CAO CAO FROM CERTAIN DEATH IN VOLUME 6.

CAO SONG:

CAO CAO'S FATHER AND A FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL. IN VOLUME 8, HE WAS KILLED BY ZHANG KAI, AN ESCORT SENT BY TAO QIAN, WHO WANTED TO STEAL HIS FORTUNES.

CHENG GONG:

A CITY GUARD CAPTAIN WHO ARRESTED CAO CAO, ONLY TO FREE AND ESCAPE WITH CAO CAO AFTER SYMPATHIZING WITH HIS STORY. HE LATER DEFECTS TO LU BU'S SIDE, AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR. HE IS KILLED ALONG WITH LU BU, IN VOLUME 14.

DING YUAN:

GOVERNOR OF BINGZHOU AND LU BU'S FOSTER-FATHER. HE OBJECTED TO DONG ZHUO'S SCHEME TO PLACE PRINCE CHENLIU AS THE EMPEROR OF HAN. HE WAS KILLED BY LU BU.

EMPRESS DOWAGER DONG:

FORMER EMPEROR LING'S MOTHER AND EMPEROR XIAN'S GRANDMOTHER. IN VOLUME 3, CONSORT HE ORDERED FOR HER DEATH IN ORDER TO SECURE HER SON LIU BIAN'S SEAT AS THE NEXT EMPEROR OF HAN.

GAO SHUN:

ONE OF LU BU'S TRUSTED GENERALS.

GUO JIA:

TALENTED STRATEGIST AND ADVISOR TO CAO CAO.

GUO SI:

A GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED UNDER DONG ZHUO. AFTER DONG ZHUO'S DEATH, HE AND LI JUE TOOK CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND DID AS THEY PLEASED. IN VOLUME 9, HE AND LI JUE FIGHT OVER THE EMPEROR BUT ENDS UP LOSING THE EMPEROR TO CAO CAO.

HOU CHENG:

ONE OF LU BU'S GENERALS. IN VOLUME 14, HE, ALONG WITH GENERALS WEI XU AND SONG XIAN, BETRAYED LU BU AND DEFECTED TO CAO CAO'S SIDE.

HUA XIONG:

ONE OF DONG ZHUO'S GENERALS. HE DEFEATED SUN JIAN'S ARMY BUT WAS LATER KILLED BY GUAN YU IN VOLUME 5.

JIANG QIN:

FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH ZHOU TAI BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE AFTER REMEMBERING HOW FIERCE HIS FATHER, SUN JIAN, WAS LIKE. HE AND JIANG QIN WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ALLOWING SUN CE TO CAPTURE NIUZHU.

LADY FUYOU:

FICTIONAL CHARACTER CREATED BY MITSUTERU YOKOYAMA AND LIU BEI'S FIRST LOVE. ZHANG FEI FORMERLY SERVED HER FAMILY, WHO WERE ALL KILLED BY THE YELLOW TURBAN REBELS.

LI JUE:

A GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED UNDER DONG ZHUO. AFTER DONG ZHUO'S DEATH, HE AND LI JUE TOOK CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND DID AS THEY PLEASED. IN VOLUME 9, HE AND GUO SI FIGHT OVER THE EMPEROR BUT ENDS UP LOSING THE EMPEROR TO CAO CAO.

LIU BIAN:

THE SON OF CONSORT HE AND WAS BRIEFLY THE EMPEROR OF HAN AFTER EMPEROR LING'S DEATH. HE WAS DEPOSED BY DONG ZHUO AND LATER KILLED ALONG WITH HIS MOTHER BY LI RU.

LIU XIE (EMPEROR XIAN OF HAN):

FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE PRINCE OF CHENLIU, HE IS THE CURRENT EMPEROR OF HAN. HE BECAME THE EMPEROR WHEN DONG ZHUO FORCIBLY DETHRONED HIS HALF-BROTHER LIU BIAN.

LIU YAO:

GOVERNOR OF YANGZHOU. HE STOLE THE LANDS OF DANYANG AWAY FROM SUN CE'S UNCLE, WU JIN. IN VOLUME 10, SUN CE SETS OUT TO RECLAIM HIS UNCLE'S LOST LANDS AND CONQUER THE REST OF YANGZHOU.

MA TENG:

GOVERNOR OF XILIANG AND FATHER OF MA CHAO. UNLIKE THE ACTUAL HISTORICAL FIGURE, HE IS DEPICTED AS A HAN LOYALIST IN THE STORY. IN VOLUME 15, HE SIGNED THE BLOOD SEAL PLEDGE THAT DONG CHENG CREATED.

TAO QIAN:

THE KIND GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU WHO ACCIDENTALLY ANGERED CAO CAO WHEN HIS DISLOYAL SUBORDINATE ZHANG KAI KILLED CAO CAO'S FATHER, CAO SONG.

XUN YU:

ONE OF CAO CAO'S MOST TALENTED ADVISORS.

ZHANG BAO:

ZHANG JIAO'S YOUNGER BROTHER AND THE YELLOW TURBAN'S GENERAL OF THE LAND. HE WAS KILLED BY LIU BEI IN VOLUME 2.

ZHANG JIAO:

LEADER OF THE YELLOW TURBAN REBELLION. HE PASSED AWAY DUE TO ILLNESS IN VOLUME 3.

ZHOU TAI:

FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH JIANG QIN BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE AFTER REMEMBERING HOW FIERCE HIS FATHER, SUN JIAN, WAS LIKE. HE AND JIANG QIN WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ALLOWING SUN CE TO CAPTURE NIUZHU.

ZHANG YING:

ONE OF LIU YAO'S GENERALS. HE WAS SENT TO DEFEND NIUZHU FROM SUN CE BUT WAS DEFEATED WHEN BANDITS (JIANG QIN AND ZHOU TAI) STAGED AN UPRISING FROM WITHIN.

ZHANG ZHAO/ZHANG HONG:

THE TWO GENIUSES OF JIANGDONG THAT ARE REFERRED TO AS THE "TWO ZHANGS." SUN CE SOUGHT TO ASK FOR THEIR ASSITANCE BEFORE SETTING OUT ON HIS CAMPAIGN TO CONQUER SOUTHEASTERN CHINA. AFTER SUN CE'S ADAMANT INSISTENCE, THEY FINALLY AGREED TO HELP HIM.

-MORE TO COME IN THE FUTURE-

SANGOKUSHI

17

GUAN YU'S ANGUISH

GUAN YU
YUNCHANG

YOKOYAMA
MITSUTERU

SANGOKUSHI
(ROMANCE OF THE
THREE KINGDOMS)

三国志

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〔月刊『少年ワールド』掲載〕

ATTEMPTED POISONING

DOCTOR JI PING! DOCTOR JI PING!

THE CHANCELLOR'S USUAL HEADACHES HAVE STARTED UP ONCE AGAIN. HE HAS CALLED FOR YOU TO COME IMMEDIATELY.

WHAT IS IT?

ALRIGHT, JUST GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES TO PREPARE THE MEDICINE.

UNDERSTOOD, I SHALL ATTEND TO HIM IMMEDIATELY.

YES, CHANCE-LLOR.

AH, GOOD TO HAVE YOU HERE DR.JI PING. PLEASE BREW ME SOME MEDICINE TO REMEDY MY PAINFUL HEADACHES.

THANK YOU.

HERE YOU GO, SIR.

SMELLS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM USUAL.

WHA!?

I SAID I'D LIKE FOR YOU TO TASTE THE MEDICINE FIRST.

IS THAT SO? THEN WHY DON'T YOU TRY DRINKING IT...?

BUT I USED THE SAME HERBS AS I ALWAYS DO, I'M SURE SIR MUST BE MISTAKEN.

O-OF COURSE NOT!

WHY THE HESITANCE? THERE WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE POISON IN THIS NOW, COULD THERE?

GUARDS! ARREST THIS QUACK DOCTOR!

WHAT? WHAT PLOT DOES SIR SPEAK OF?

I ALREADY KNOW THAT YOU POISONED MY MEDICINE. JUST TELL ME WHO ELSE IS BEHIND THIS ASSASSINATION PLOT.

I DOUBT THAT YOU PLANNED THIS ALONE. THE WOND ON YOUR PINKY IS PROOF ENOUGH THAT YOU SWORE SOME OATH OF LOYALTY WITH YOUR FELLOW CONSPIRATORS.

HA HA HA HA HA

CONFESS NOW AND I SHALL SPARE YOU YOUR LIFE.

I LAUGH BECAUSE WHAT YOU ASK IS RIDICU-LOUS.

JUST WHAT DO YOU FIND SO FUNNY!?

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THERE TO BE ONLY A FEW PEOPLE WHO PLOT TO KILL YOU? HA! IF SO, YOU COULD NOT BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH FOR THE ENTIRE EMPIRE WISHES FOR YOUR DEATH! JUST HOW CAN YOU EXPECT ME TO NAME EVERY SINGLE LAST MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD OF HAN!?

DRAG THIS MAN OUT AND BEAT HIM!

NGHH...! I SHALL MAKE YOU REGRET SAYING THAT...

I KNOW NOTHING!

DO YOU FEEL LIKE TALKING NOW?

STOP, THAT'S ENOUGH! HE CANNOT BE KILLED UNTIL HE CONFESSES!

LOCK HIM UP IN THE CELL FOR NOW.

ズ〃〃ズ〃〃

PERSISTENT BASTARD... HE'S MOST LIKELY THE TYPE TO TAKE HIS SECRETS TO HIS GRAVE...

AN INVITATION?

SEND OUT AN INVITATION TO ALL THE MINISTERS.

YES, CHANCELLOR. I SHALL HAVE THE INVITATIONS SENT OUT RIGHT AWAY.

YES, AN INVITATION FOR A BANQUET. ATTENDANCE WILL BE MANDATORY.

PERHAPS THE CHANCELLOR WAS A LITTLE BORED.

MY, WHAT A LOVELY BANQUET THIS IS. BUT WHAT'S THE OCCASION FOR ALL THIS?

YES, EXACTLY.

MIGHT AS WELL AS MAKE THE MOST OUT OF IT BY ENJOYING THE FOOD, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

GENTLEMENT, IF I MAY HAVE YOUR ATTENTION FOR A *MOMENT*, I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU ALL SOMETHING INTERESTING.

IT MUST BE QUITE THE SHOW.

OH I WONDER WHAT IT'LL BE. PERHAPS A DANCE?

I HAVE DRAGGED HIM OUT HERE TO GET HIM TO CONFESS WHO AMONG YOU PLOTTED MY ASSAS-SINATION WITH HIM.
NO NEED TO PANIC, GENTLEMEN. DR. JI PING HERE TRIED TO POISON ME EARLIER TODAY AND I HAD HIM RIGHTFULLY PUNISHED.

HAVE YOU NO TACT, CAO CAO!? JUST KILL ME ALREADY! TORTURING ME LIKE THIS OUT IN THE OPEN SHALL ONLY COST YOU THE PEOPLE'S HEARTS!

THERE COULD BE NO BETTER CHOICE FOR YOU THAN THIS, I ADVISE YOU TO ACCEPT.

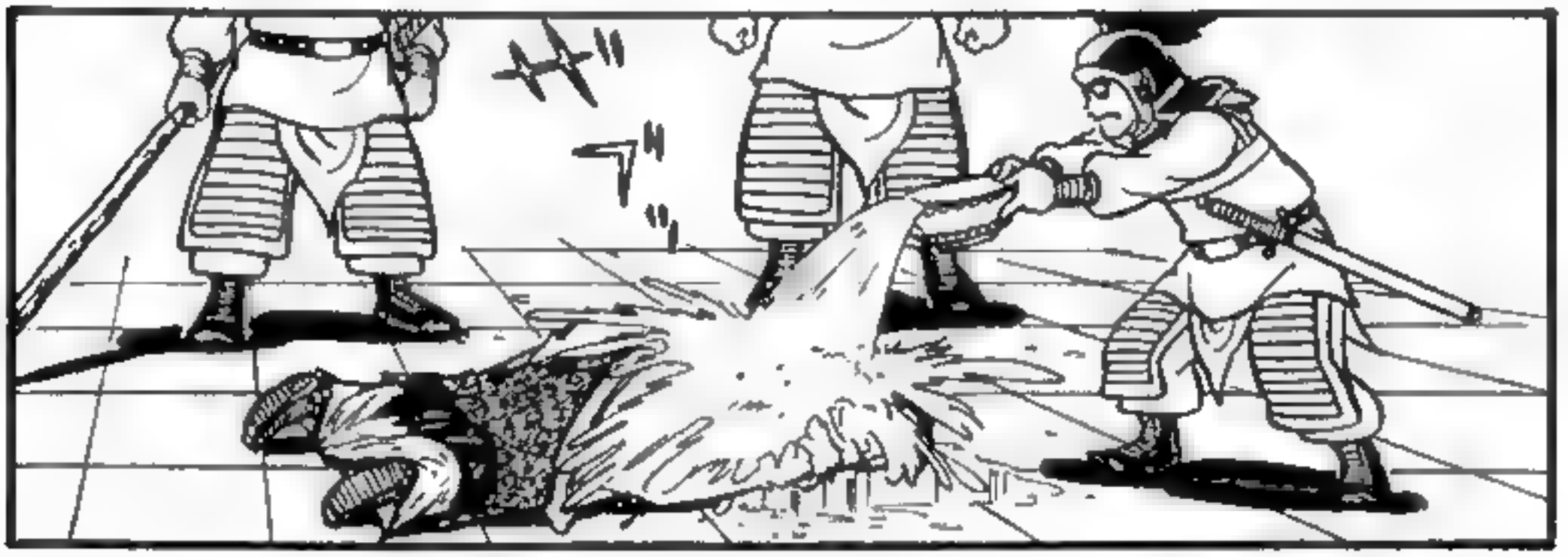
COME NOW, DOCTOR. I SHALL SPARE YOU FURTHER SHAME AND PAIN IF YOU WOULD JUST TELL ME WHAT I WANT.

-SPIT-

IF YOU WANT TO DIE SO BADLY, I SHALL GRANT YOU THAT WISH BUT ONLY *AFTER* YOU TELL ME WHO THE OTHER CONSPIRATORS ARE.

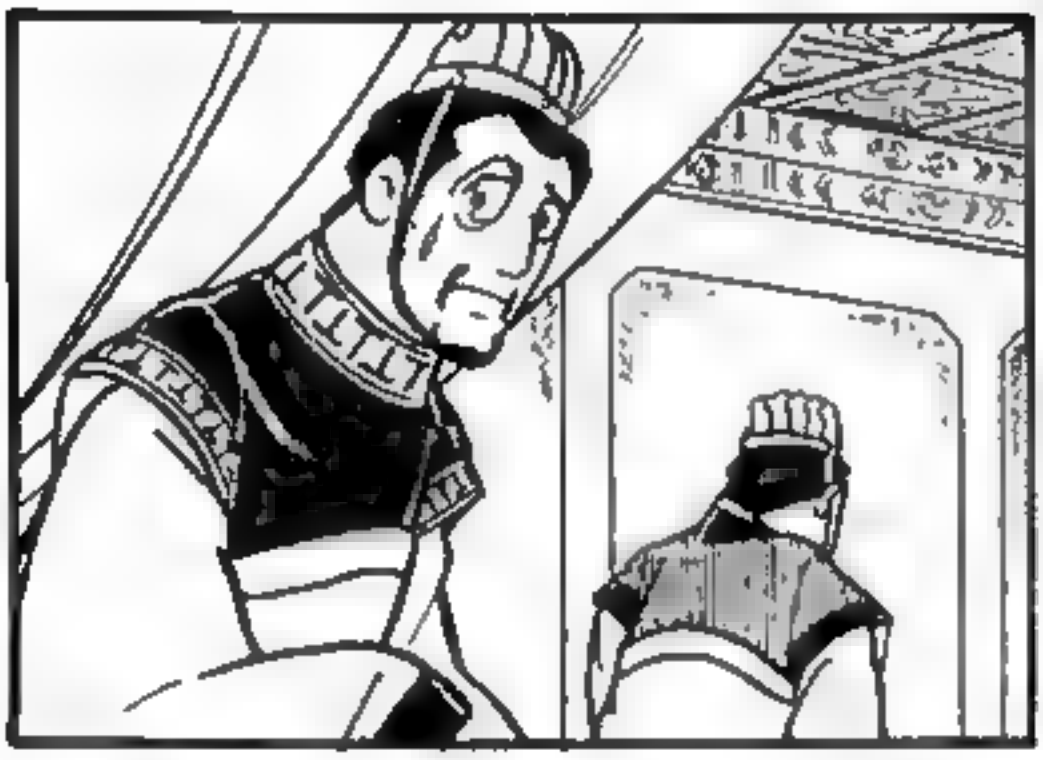
BEAT HIM!

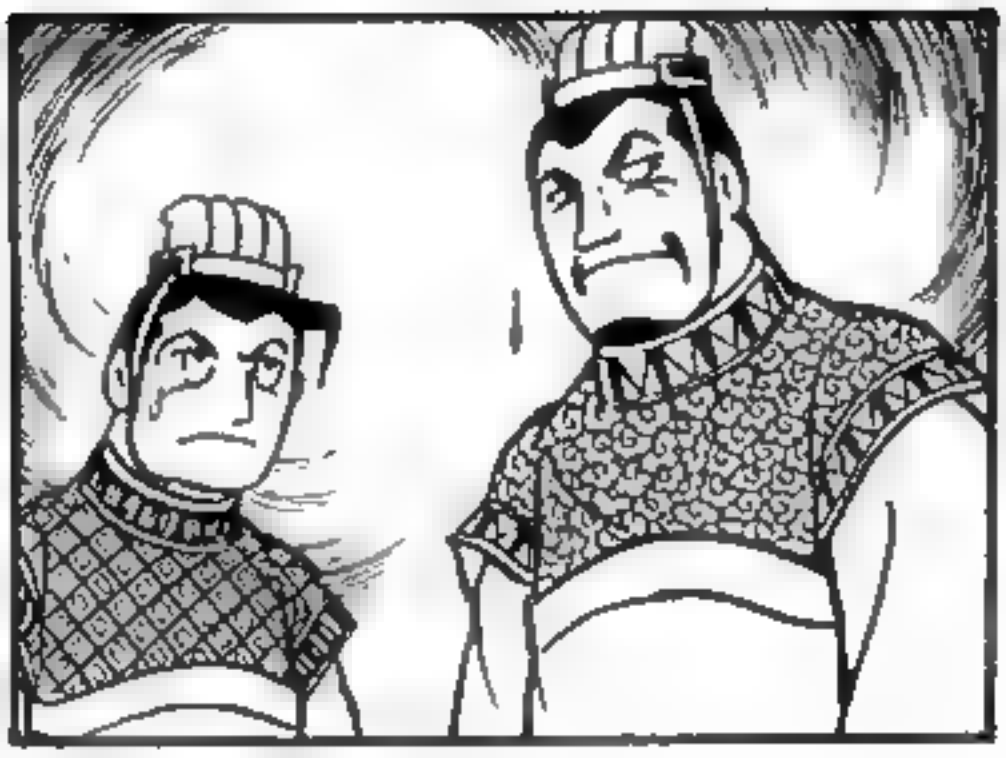
POUR SOME WATER TO WAKE HIM UP!



NGHH
...

THIS IS JUST TOO PAINFUL TO WATCH...





YOU 4, STOP RIGHT THERE!

W-WHAT!? COMRADE?

IS IT TOO MUCH TO BEAR SEEING YOUR COMRADE BEING TORTURED?

SILENCE! DO YOU TAKE ME FOR A FOOL!? I AM ALREADY FULL AWARE THAT YOU MEN, ALONG WITH DONG CHENG, HAVE BEEN PLOTTING MY ASSASSINATION!

W-WHAT SUDDEN ACCUSATION IS THIS, CHANCELLOR?

BRING IN QING-TONG!

STILL FEIGNING IGNORANCE?

OF COURSE SIR.

QINGTONG, YOU SWEAR YOU'RE TELLING ME THE TRUTH?

QINGTONG? DONG CHENG'S SERVANT?

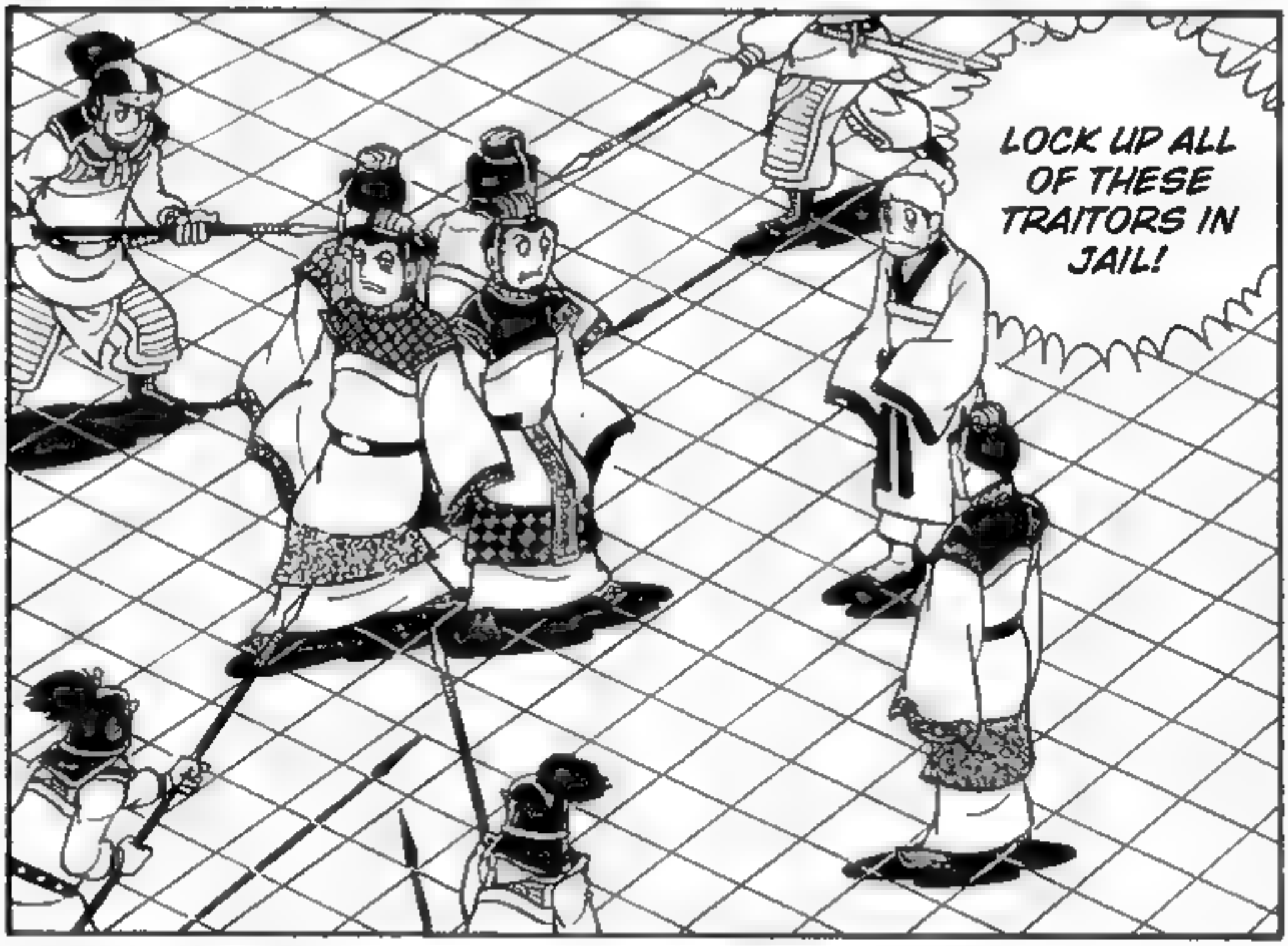
MY MASTER DONG CHENG AND THESE MEN WERE SECRETLY CONSPIRING TO ASSASSINATE SIR.

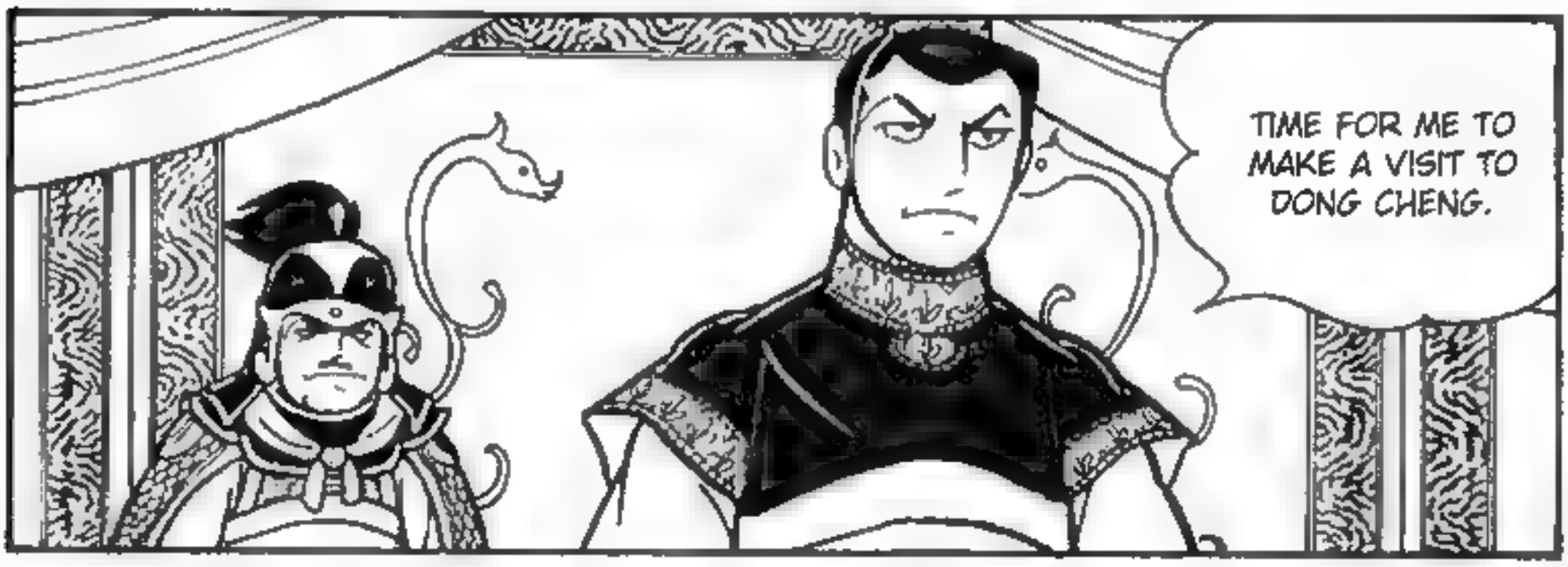
IT IS NOT NONSENSE, I HEARD IT WITH MY OWN TWO EARS! I DON'T SEE WHY I SHOULD KEEP QUIET ABOUT YOUR CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES.

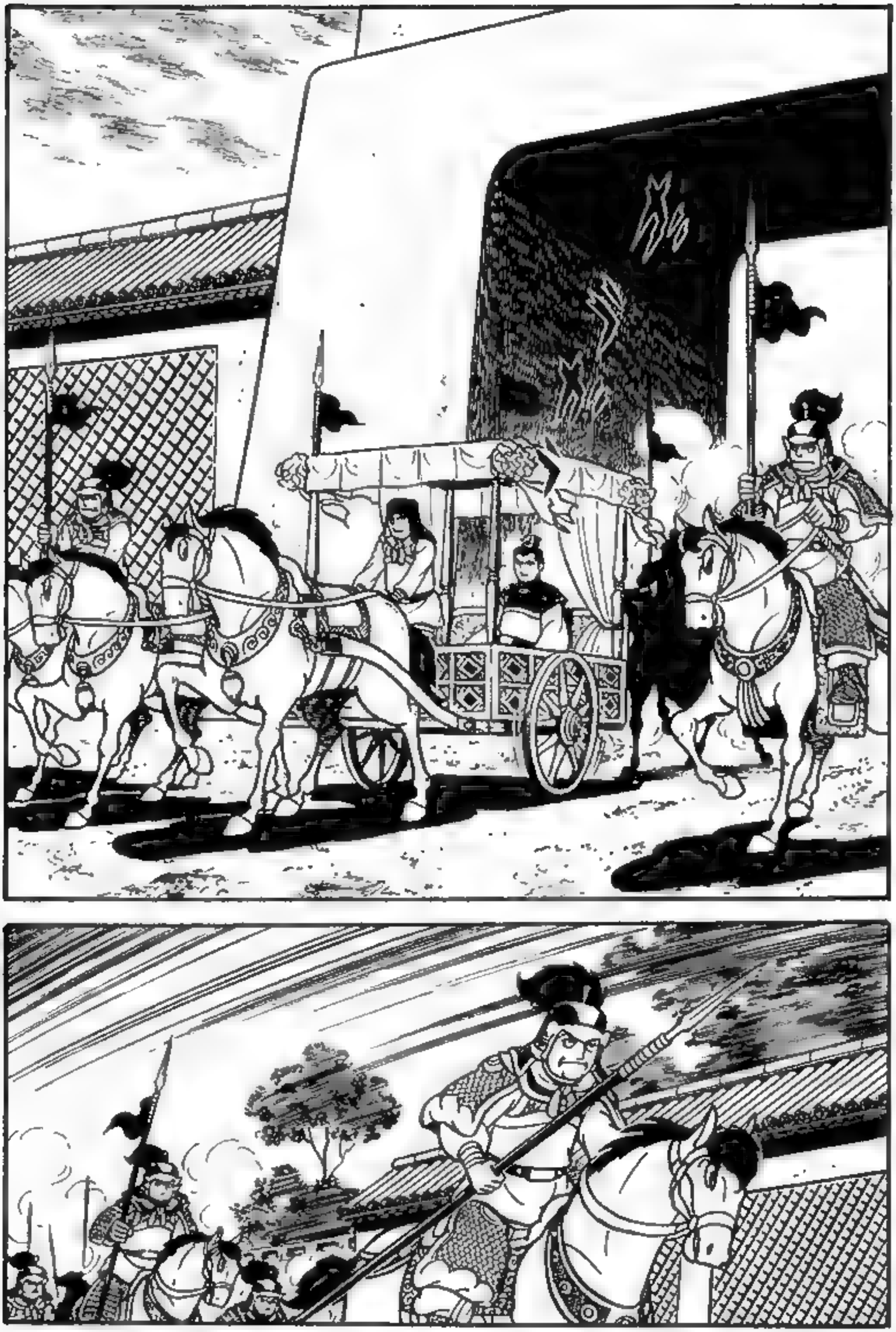
WHAT NONSENSE IS THIS!?

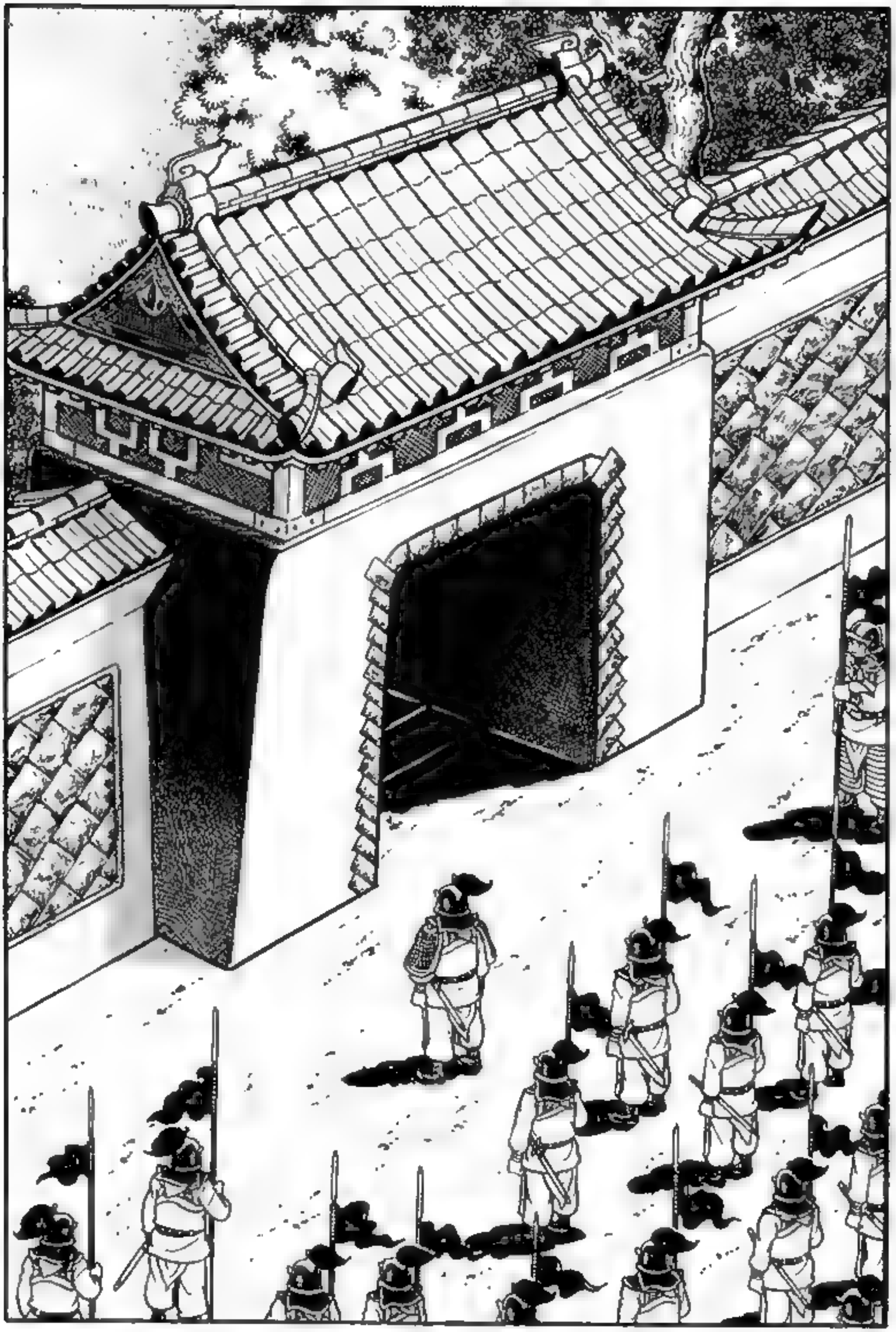
IF YOUR PLOT WERE TO FAIL, THEN ALL US INNOCENT SERVANTS WOULD NATURALLY BE EXECUTED WITH YOU MEN. JUST WHY MUST I DIE FOR MY MASTER'S CRIMES?

WHY YOU UNGRATE-FUL...!


LOCK UP ALL OF THESE TRAITORS IN JAIL!


TIME FOR ME TO MAKE A VISIT TO DONG CHENG.





DID YOU NOT RECEIVE MY INVITATION FOR THE BANQUET?

AH, GOOD DAY, CHANCELLOR CAO CAO. WHAT BRINGS SIR TO MY HOME TODAY?

STILL STRESSED OVER ON HOW TO KILL ME?

THAT I DID, BUT THIS FRAIL OLD BODY OF MINE WAS ACTING UP AGAIN. FORGIVE ME, SIR.

SEARCH HIS HOUSE!

W-WHAT!?

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS, CHANCELLOR!?

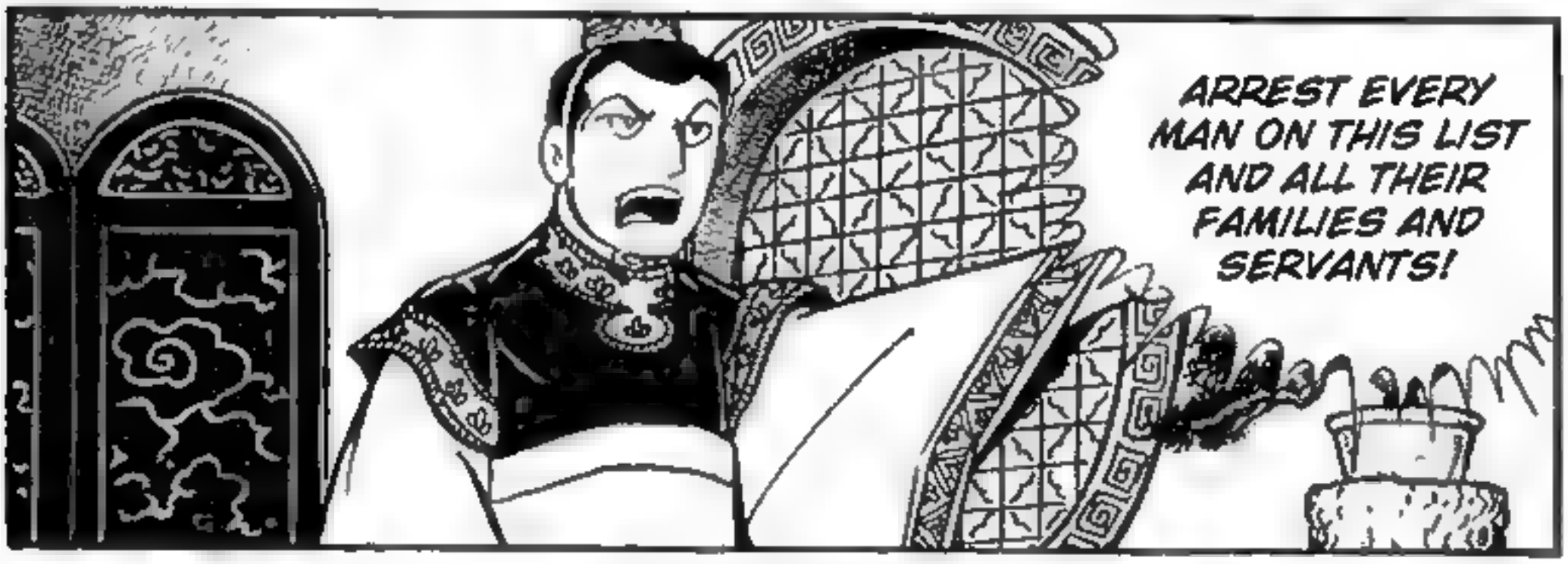
IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT HE CONFESSED EVERYTHING.

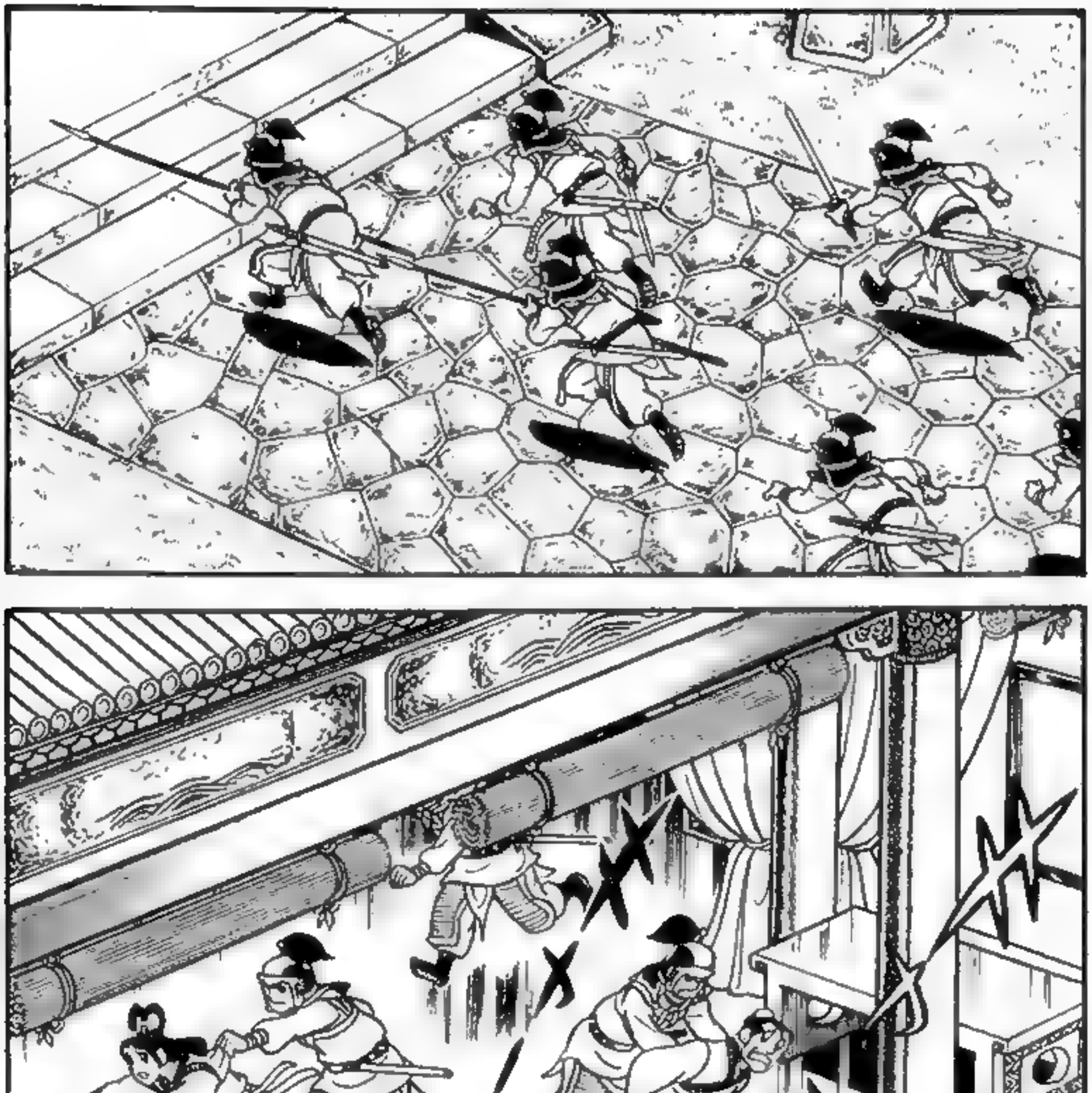
I'M SURE YOU ARE ACQUAINTED WITH QINGTONG, ONE OF YOUR SERVANTS.

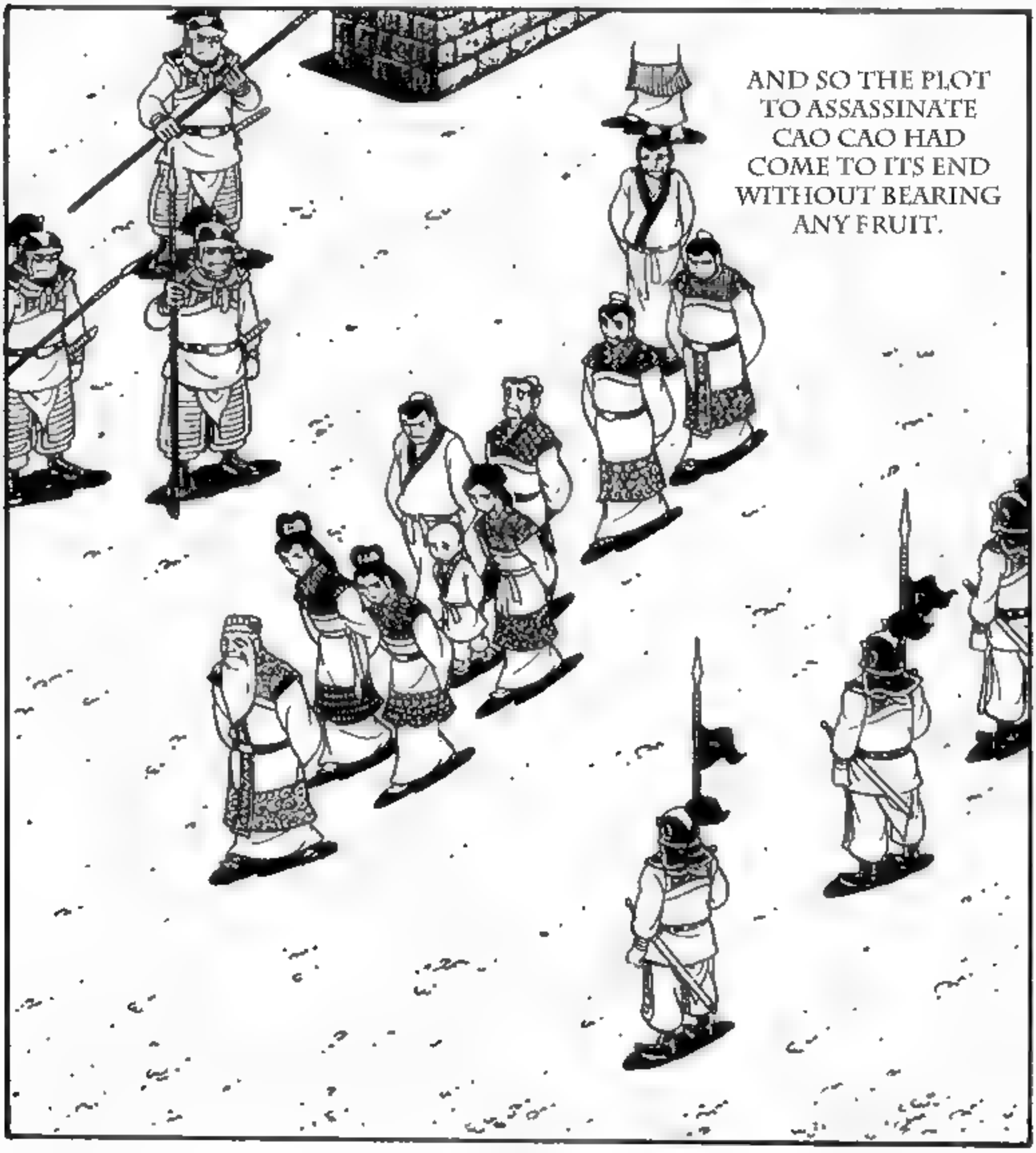
CHANCELLOR! A BLOOD PLEDGE OF AN ALLIANCE OF SOME SORT HAS BEEN FOUND!

GOOD, LET ME SEE.

I ASSUME YOU ARE PREPARED FOR THE CONSEQUENCES, DONG CHENG?


ARREST EVERY MAN ON THIS LIST AND ALL THEIR FAMILIES AND SERVANTS!




AND SO THE PLOT
TO ASSASSINATE
CAO CAO HAD
COME TO IT'S END
WITHOUT BEARING
ANY FRUIT.

THE CONSPIRATORS AND THEIR FAMILIES WERE DRAGGED OUT TO THE GATES OF XUCHANG AND EXECUTED. NEARLY 700 PEOPLE MET THEIR ENDS THAT DAY

FALL OF XUZHOU

DOES HE EVEN REALIZE THAT IT WAS I WHO BROUGHT PEACE AND STABILITY BACK TO HAN!?

JUST WHO DOES HE THINK SAVED HIM FROM THOSE TREASONOUS SCUM BACK IN CHANG'AN!?

IF THAT'S HOW HIS HIGHNESS FEELS ABOUT ME, THEN SO BE IT. I SHALL DETHRONE HIM AND REPLACE HIM WITH ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY!

EMPEROR, HE MAY BE, BUT EVEN MY PATIENCE HAS LIMITS!

WHAT!?

I WOULD ADVISE AGAINST THAT, MY LORD.

THE REASON FOR MY LORD'S SUCCESS UNTIL NOW IS BECAUSE SIR HAS SUPPORTED AND AIDED THE EMPEROR. BUT IF MY LORD TRIES TO REPLACE HIS HIGHNESS AS DONG ZHUO DID, SIR WILL SUFFER THE SAME FATE AS HE.

FINE, BUT I SHALL GET RID OF MA TENG AND LIU BEI WHO ALSO SIGNED THAT PLEDGE.

MNN... TRUE, YOU HAVE A POINT.

THAT WOULD BE MOST WISE.

AND IF YUAN SHAO REALIZES THAT MY LORD IS PREOCCUPIED FIGHTING LIU BEI AND MA TENG, YUAN SHAO'S ARMY SHALL NOT KEEP QUIET.

HOWEVER, MIGHT I REMIND MY LORD THAT THE XILIANG SOLDIERS OF MA TENG ARE RENOWNED FOR THEIR COURAGE AND FEROCITY. MOREOVER, LIU BEI'S DEFENSES ARE NOT TO BE UNDERESTIMATED. ELIMINATING THE TWO OF THEM SHALL PROVE TO BE NO EASY TASK.

HMM...

PERHAPS WE COULD SOMEHOW LURE MA TENG AND LIU BEI HERE TO THE CAPITAL AND ASSASSINATE THEM.

I HIGHLY DOUBT HE WOULD TAKE ACTION EVEN IF WE WERE TO ENGAGE IN ANOTHER WAR.

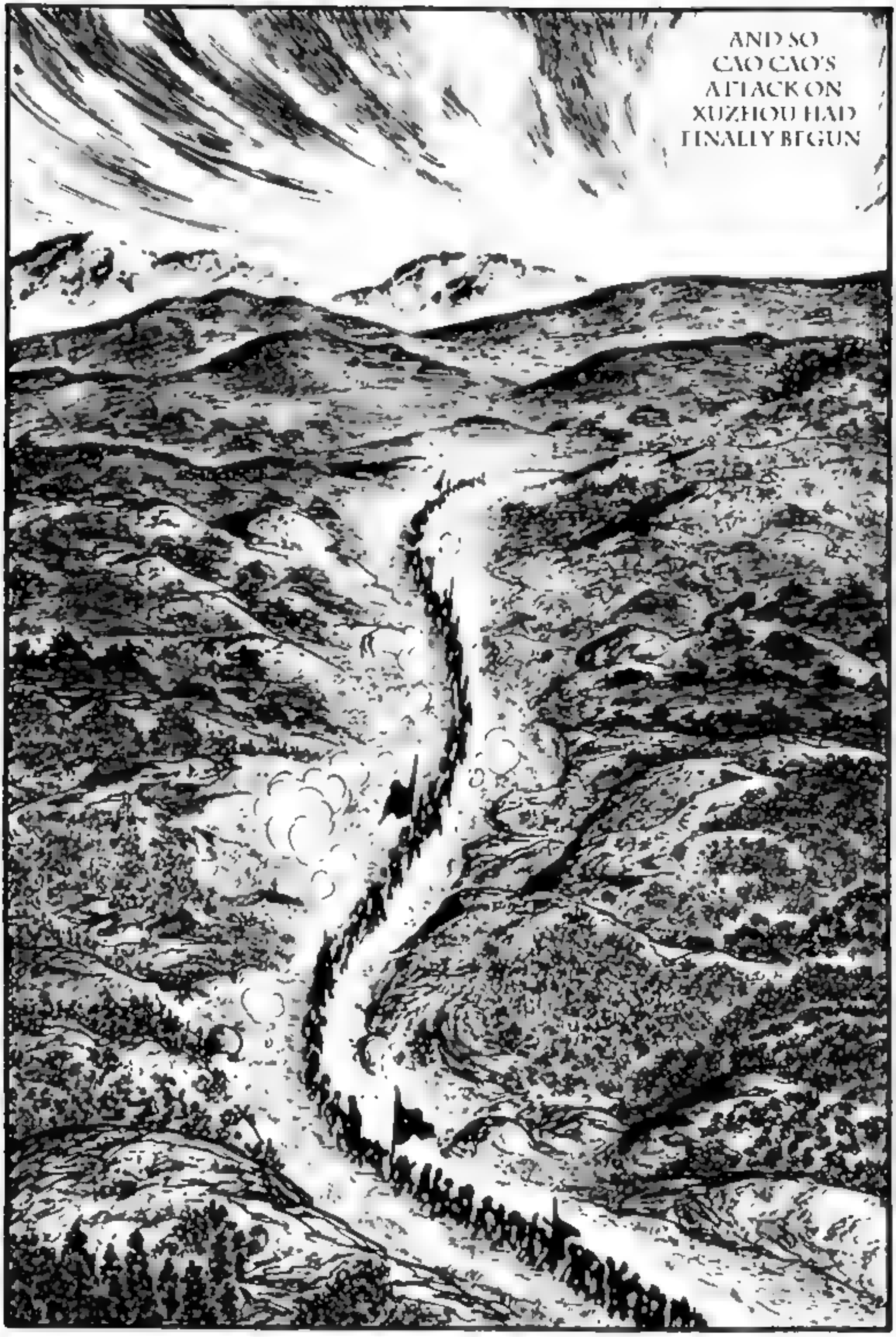
I DISAGREE WITH WHAT CHENG YU HERE HAS JUST SAID. YUAN SHAO IS AN INDECISIVE AND WEAK LEADER WHO CANNOT COMMAND HIS MEN EFFECTIVELY.

INDEED, YUAN SHAO IS AN INCAPABLE FOOL.

AND SO I BELIEVE NOW TO BE THE PERFECT CHANCE TO ATTACK XUZHOU.

ALRIGHT, I HAVE DECIDED TO ATTACK XUZHOU!

MOBILIZE 200,000 SOLDIERS AND DIVIDE THEM AMONG 5 DIVISIONS TO ALL DEPART FOR XUZHOU!
YES, MY LORD.


AND SO
CAO CAO'S
ATTACK ON
XUZHOU HAD
FINALLY BEGUN

WHAT!? CAO CAO HAS FOUND OUT ABOUT OUR PLOT AND HAS EXECUTED DONG CHENG AND THE OTHERS WHO SIGNED THE BLOOD PLEDGE!?

YES, MY LORD.

I HAD FEARED THIS EVENTUALITY BUT TO THINK IT WOULD HAPPEN SO SOON...!

XUZHOU

THEY ARE 200,000 STRONG, MY LORD.

AND? JUST HOW MANY DOES HIS ARMY SENT FOR XUZHOU NUMBER AT?

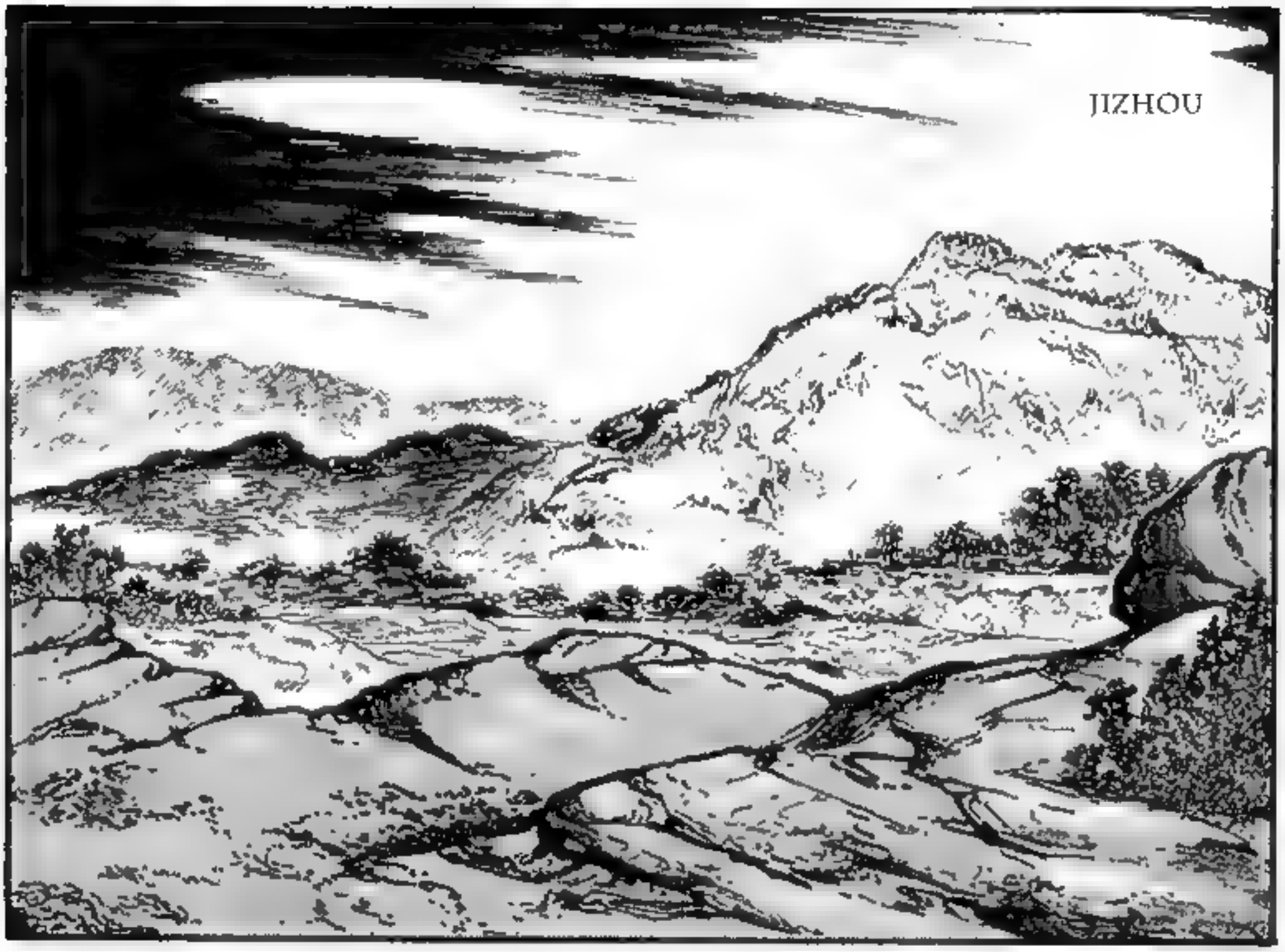
MY LORD, YUAN SHAO IS THE ONLY MAN WHO CAN SAVE US NOW.

200,000!?

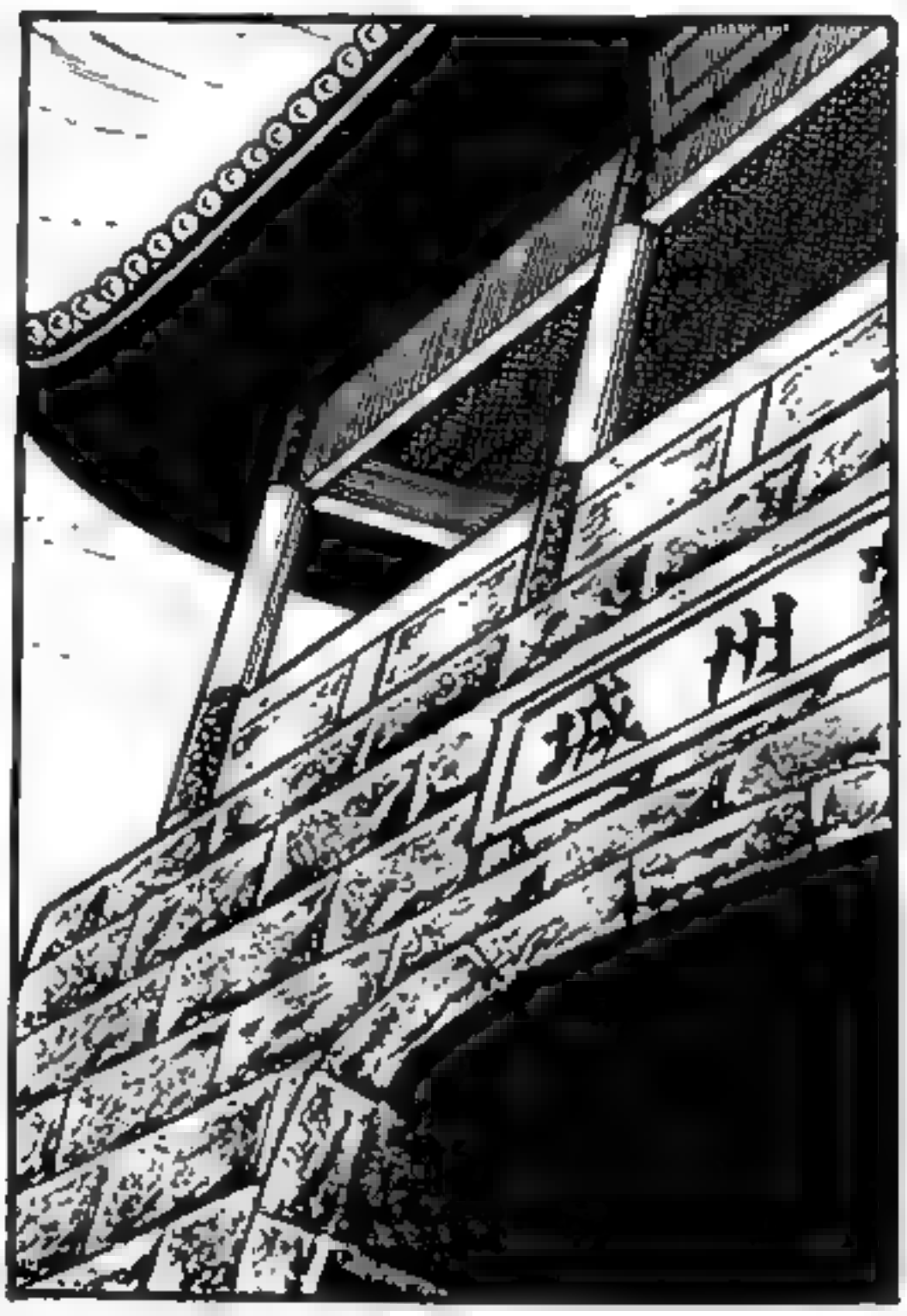
YES, I SHALL WRITE A LETTER IMMEDIATELY.

YES, SIR.

THE FATE OF XUZHOU LIES WITHIN THIS LETTER.


JIZHOU

MY LORD, A MESSENGER FROM XUZHOU HAS COME TO SEE SIR.


徐州城

AND WHY IS THAT, MY LORD?

TIAN FENG, I'M IN NO MOOD TO SEE SOME MESSENGER RIGHT NOW.

I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT, SIR.

I HAVE A MOST UNFORTUNATE LUCK WHEN IT COMES TO HEIRS. DESPITE HAVING MANY SONS, THEY'RE ALL A USELESS LOT SAVE FOR ONE, MY FIFTH SON. THOUGH I EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM HIM, HE HAS RECENTLY COME DOWN WITH A SERIOUS ILLNESS. I NOW FIND MYSELF WRACKED WITH WORRIES.

BUT WHAT DID THAT MESSENGER WANT ANYWAYS?

HMM?

IT SEEMS THAT CAO CAO HAS MOBILIZED AN ARMY OF 200,000 TO ATTACK XUZHOU.

HMM...

WITH CAO CAO'S ARMY HEADING TO XUZHOU, NOW IS THE PERFECT CHANCE TO CAPTURE XUCHANG AND SAVE THE EMPEROR, MY LORD.

BUT MY LORD! THE HEAVENS ARE WITHIN SIR'S GRASP, THIS OPPORTUNITY MUST NOT BE SQUANDERED!

I KNOW IT SEEMS LIKE A GOOD CHANCE, BUT I AM JUST NOT IN THE MOOD TO FIGHT.

BUT SURELY THE DOCTORS CAN TAKE CARE OF YOUR SON WHILE YOU'RE AWAY?

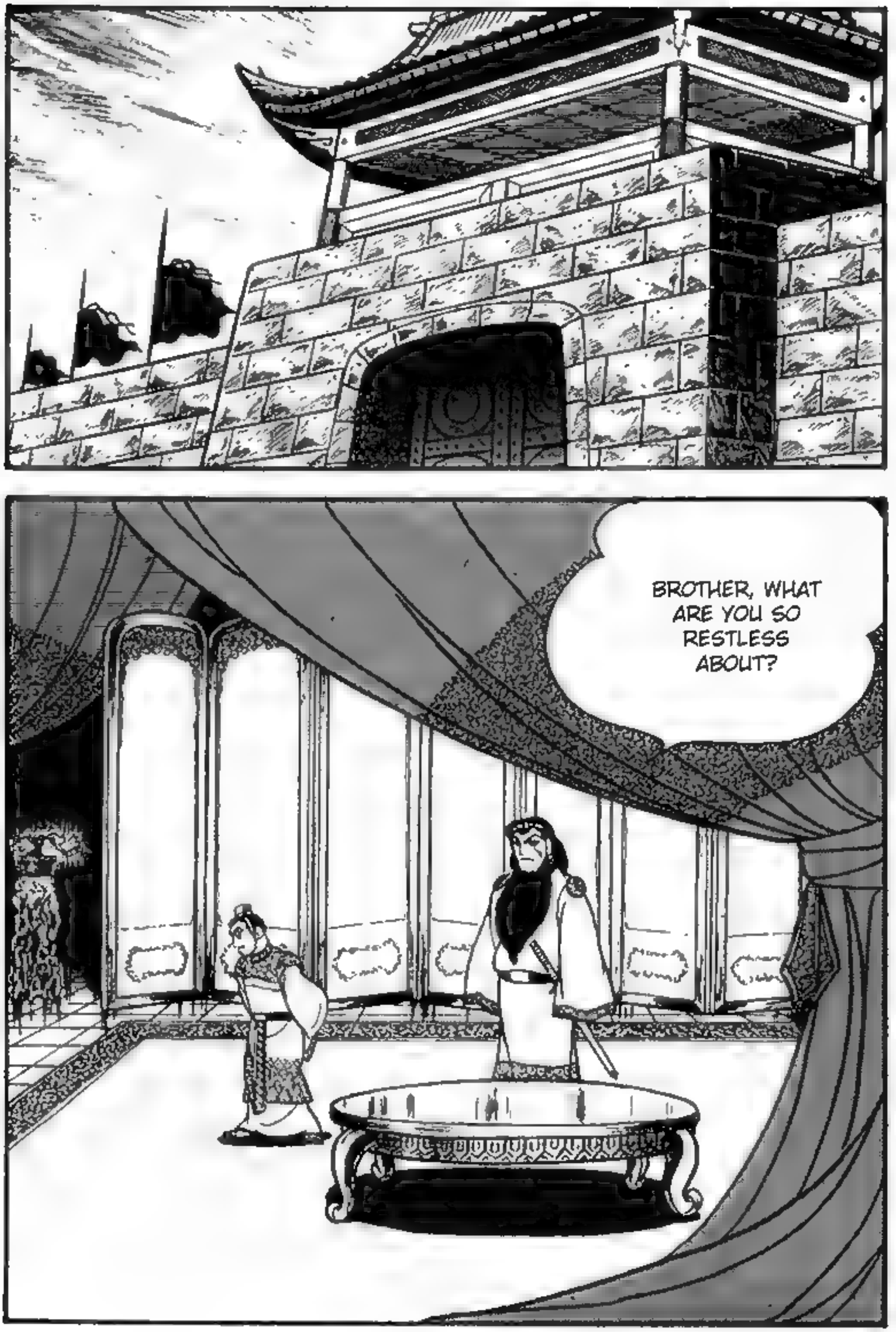
BUT FIGHTING WHEN ONE IS WORRIED WITH OTHER MATTERS SHALL ONLY LEAD TO DEFEAT.

TIAN FENG! IF A FRIEND INVITED YOU OUT TO GO HUNTING WHEN YOUR SON WAS DEATHLY ILL, WOULD YOU ACCEPT!?

YES, SIR.

TELL LIU BEI'S MESSENGER THAT I REGRETTABLY CANNOT SEND ANY REINFORCE-MENTS BUT SHOULD ANYTHING HAPPEN, HE CAN SEEK SHELTER HERE IN JIZHOU.

ALAS! THE CHANCE OF A CENTURY WASTED BECAUSE OF A SINGLE SON'S ILLNESS!


BROTHER, WHAT ARE YOU SO RESTLESS ABOUT?

TRUE, BUT WORRYING ISN'T GOING TO HELP OUR SITUATION, BROTHER.

HOW COULD YOU *NOT* BE RESTLESS WHEN CAO CAO AND HIS 200,000 SOLDIERS STORM TOWARDS XUZHOU AS WE SPEAK?

A RAID?

RATHER THAN ANXIOUSLY WAITING HERE, HOW ABOUT IF WE MAKE THE FIRST MOVE BY LAUNCHING A RAID?

CAO CAO IS AN IMPATIENT TYPE AND IS SURE TO HAVE HURRIED OVER HERE AT THE GREATEST SPEED. HIS SOLDIERS WILL NO DOUBT BE TOO TIRED FOR A PROPER FIGHT FOR AT LEAST 4-5 DAYS. IS THIS NOT THE PERFECT CHANCE FOR A SURPRISE RAID?

HMM...

WE CAN THEN PLAN FOR OUR NEXT COURSE OF ACTION WITH GUAN YU AT XIAPI CASTLE.

HAHA, THAT'S THE SPIRIT!

YES, YOU BRING UP A GOOD IDEA. LET US DO AS YOU SAY.

YOU'RE LOOKING MORE LIKE A WISE STRATE-GIST EVERY DAY.

I'LL PREPARE THE TROOPS FOR A RAID RIGHT AWAY.

YES, IT'S FINALLY TIME TO CRUSH THAT PESKY LIU BEI.

MY LORD, WE HAVE FINALLY REACHED XIAOPEI TERRITORY.

HMM?

TO HAVE OUR BANNER BREAK JUST BEFORE THE BATTLE... WHAT ILL OMEN IS THIS!?

THE STAFF OF OUR BANNER BROKE JUST NOW. WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS?

WHAT IS IT, MY LORD?

FROM THE SOUTHEAST.

WHICH WAY DID THE WIND BLOW AS IT BROKE THE FLAG?

WINDS FROM THE SOUTHEAST BREAKING A RED FLAG...?

IS THAT SO?

MY LORD, AS IT IS RECORDED IN THE DIVINATION ARTS, A RED FLAG BROKEN BY SOUTHEAST WINDS PORTENDS AN ENEMY RAID.

SO EVEN THE HEAVENS HAVE COME TO MY AID...

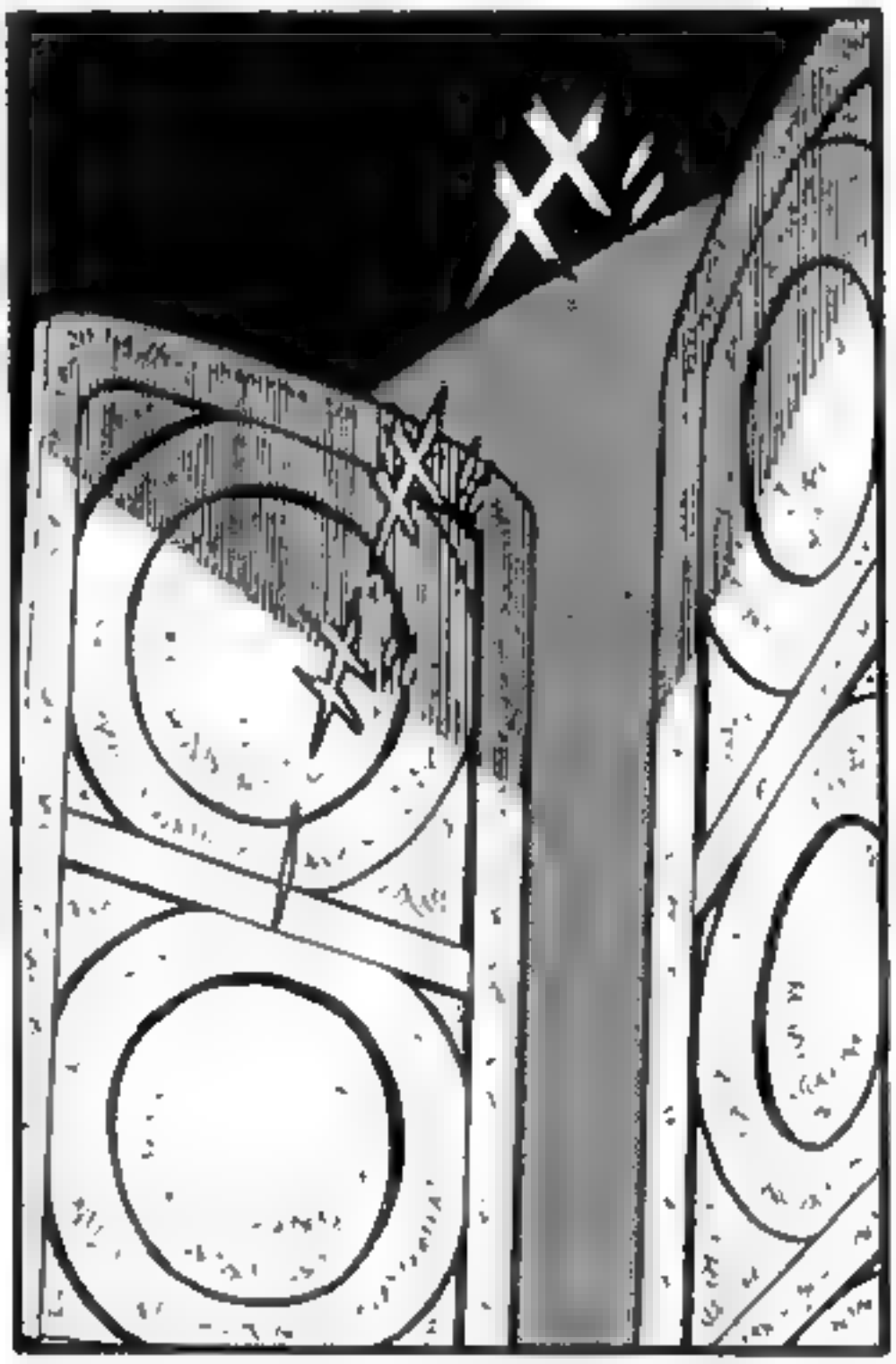
DIVIDE THE TROOPS INTO 9 GROUPS AND HAVE THEM EACH HIDE AROUND THE REGIONS HERE. WE SHALL PREPARE TO AMBUSH THE ENEMIES COMING TONIGHT!

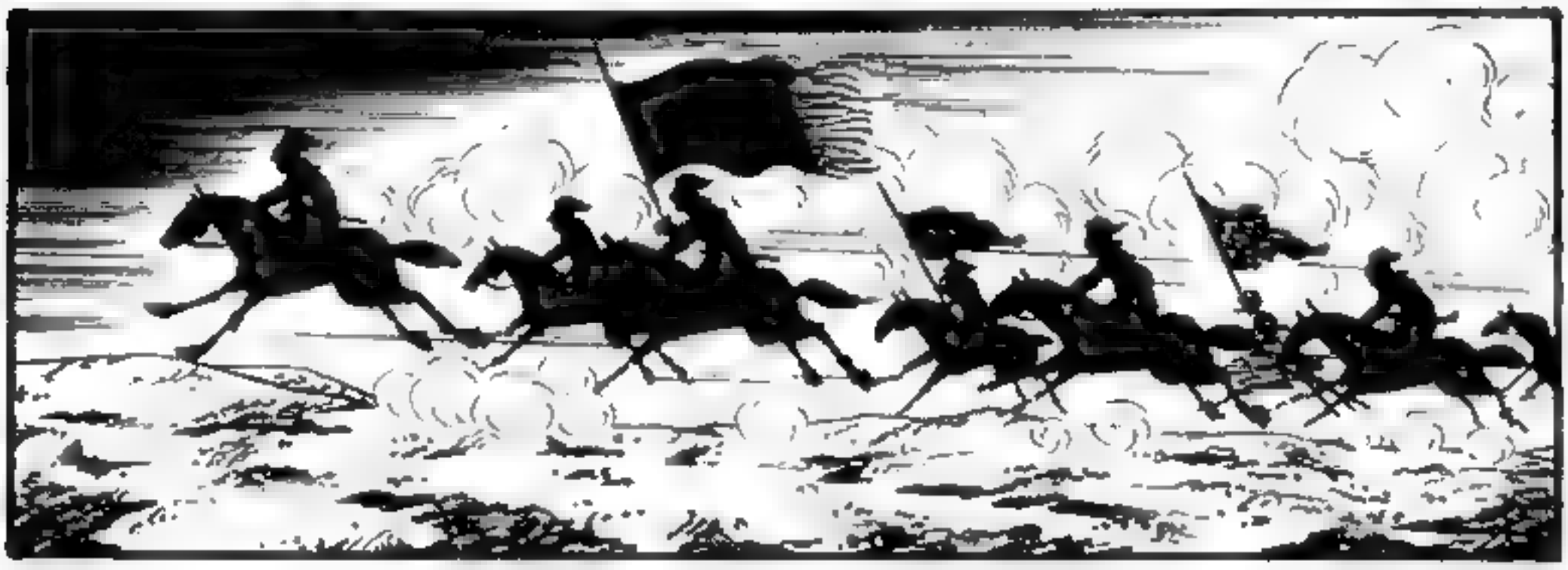
YES, LET US MOVE OUT.

ARE YOU READY BROTHER?

THE ENEMIES WILL BE FAST ASLEEP AFTER THEIR LONG JOURNEY HERE WITHOUT A DOUBT.

ALRIGHT MEN, MOVE OUT!





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HMM?

WHAT?
THERE'S NOT A SINGLE ENEMY SOLDIER HERE!

SOMETHING IS DEFINITELY NOT RIGHT. BE ALERT MEN!

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

AHAHAHAHA!

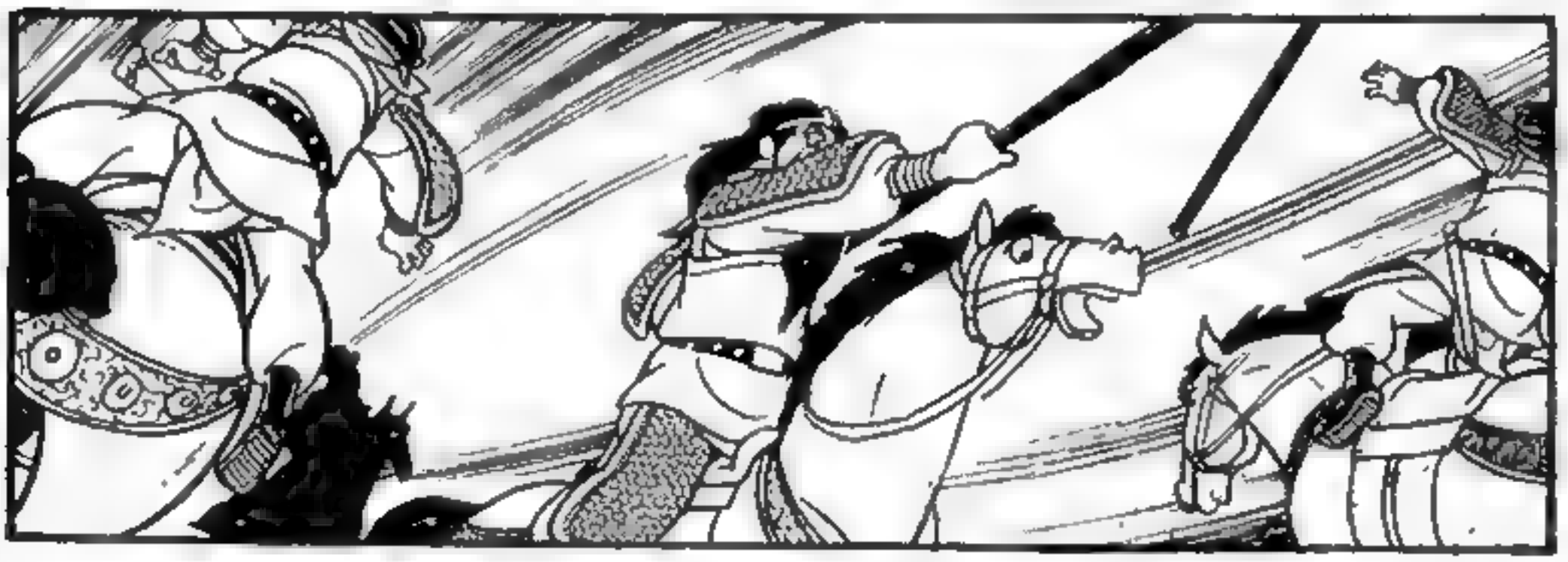
HAHAHA!

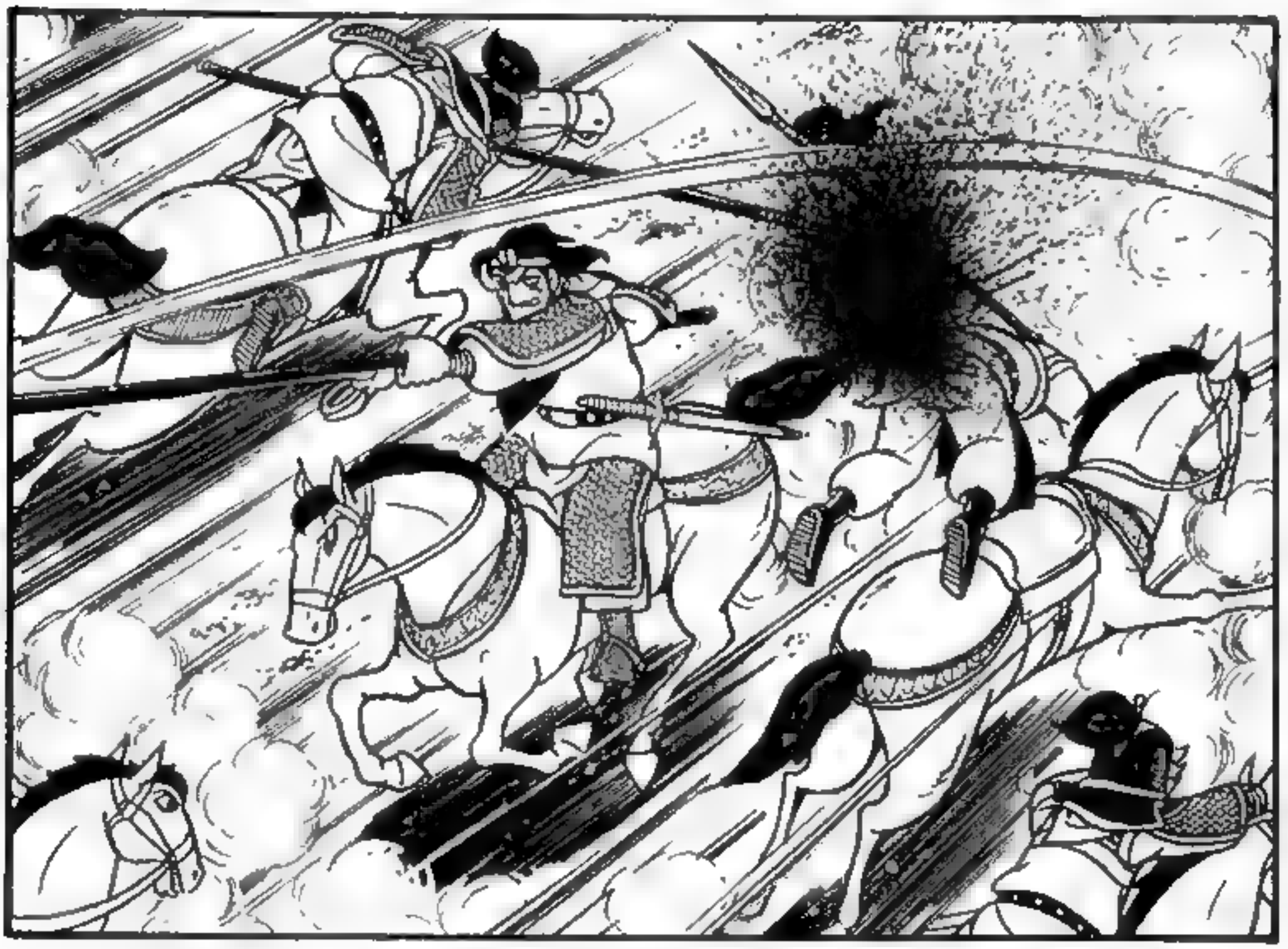
CURSES, WE'VE FALLEN INTO AN ENEMY TRAP!

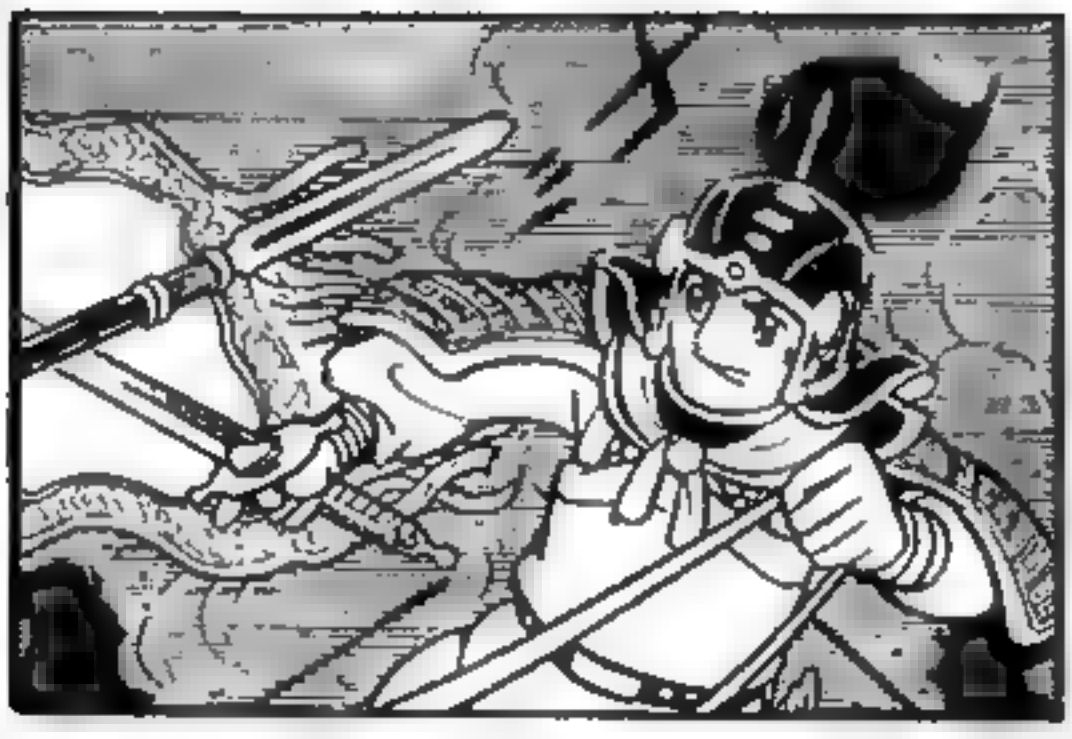
DON'T LET THE OTHER DIVISIONS TAKE ALL THE CREDIT!

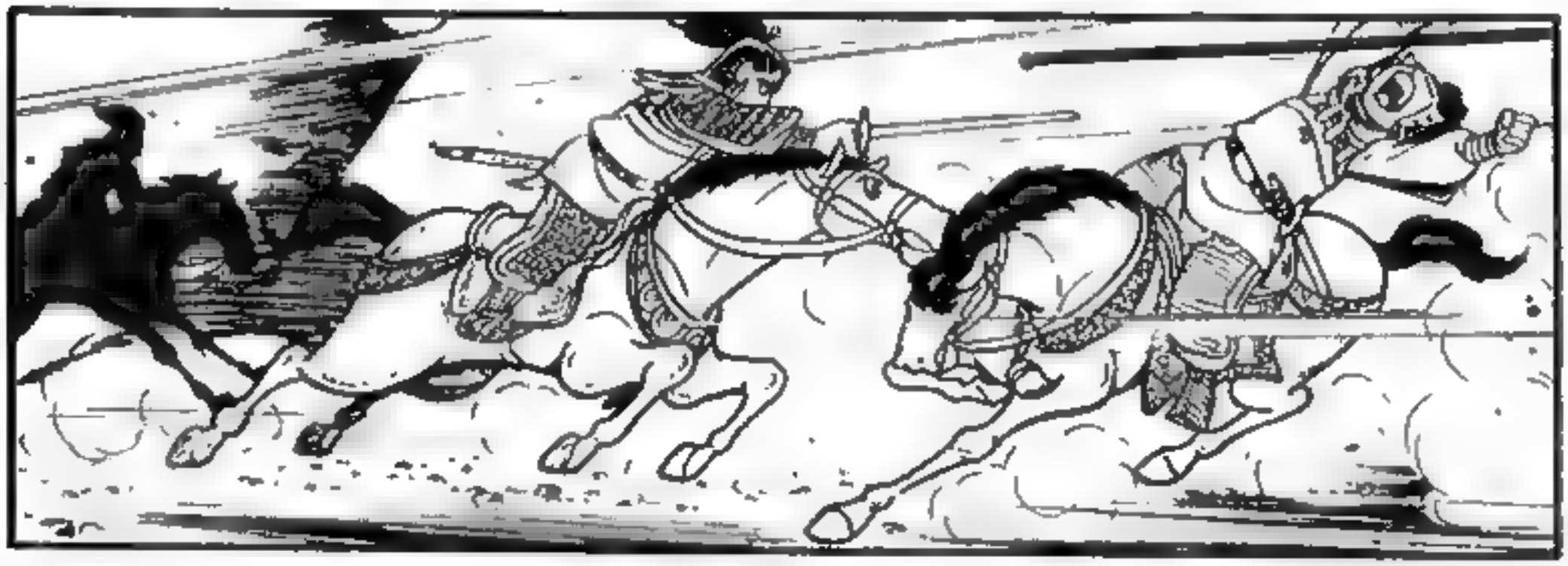
ATTACK!

NGHH...!

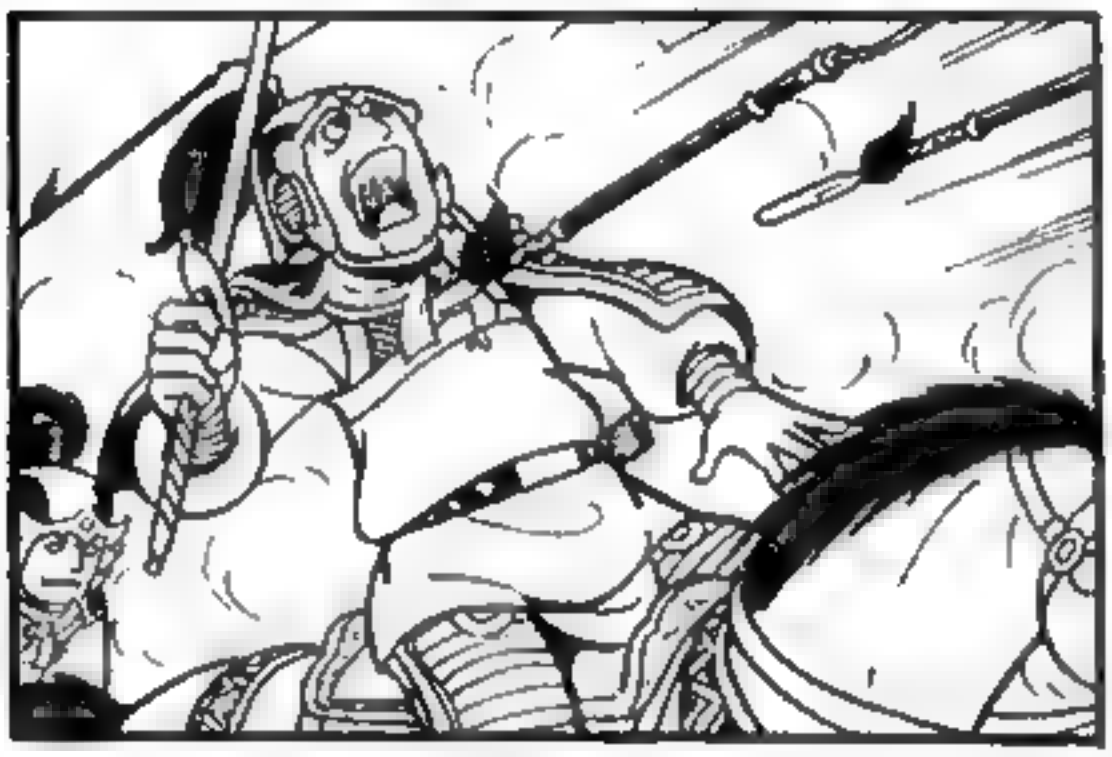


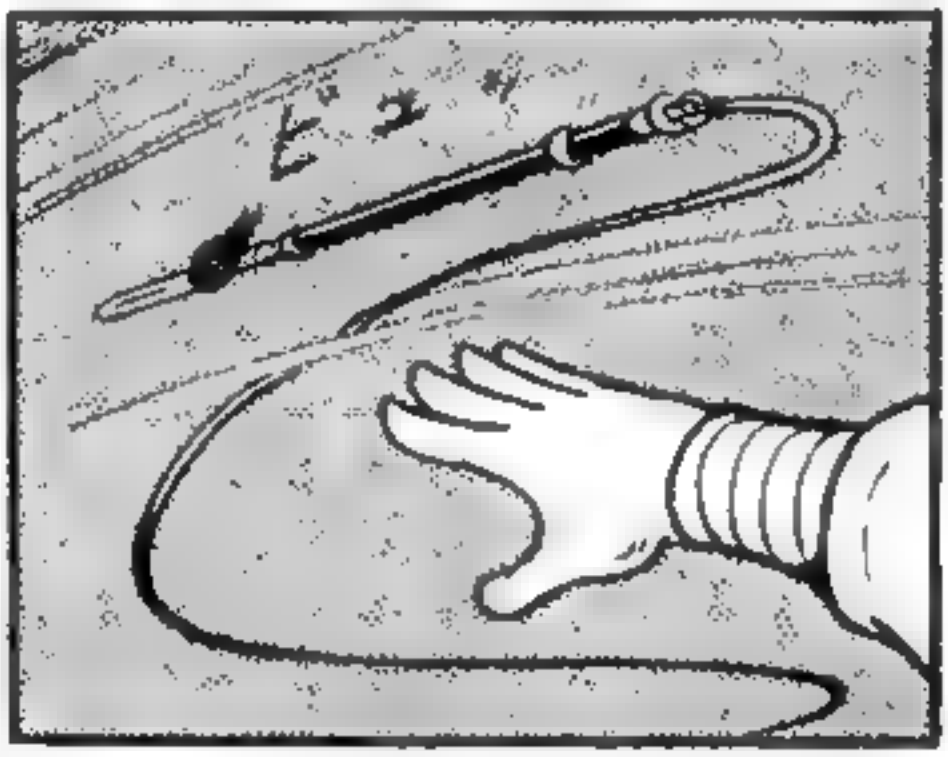


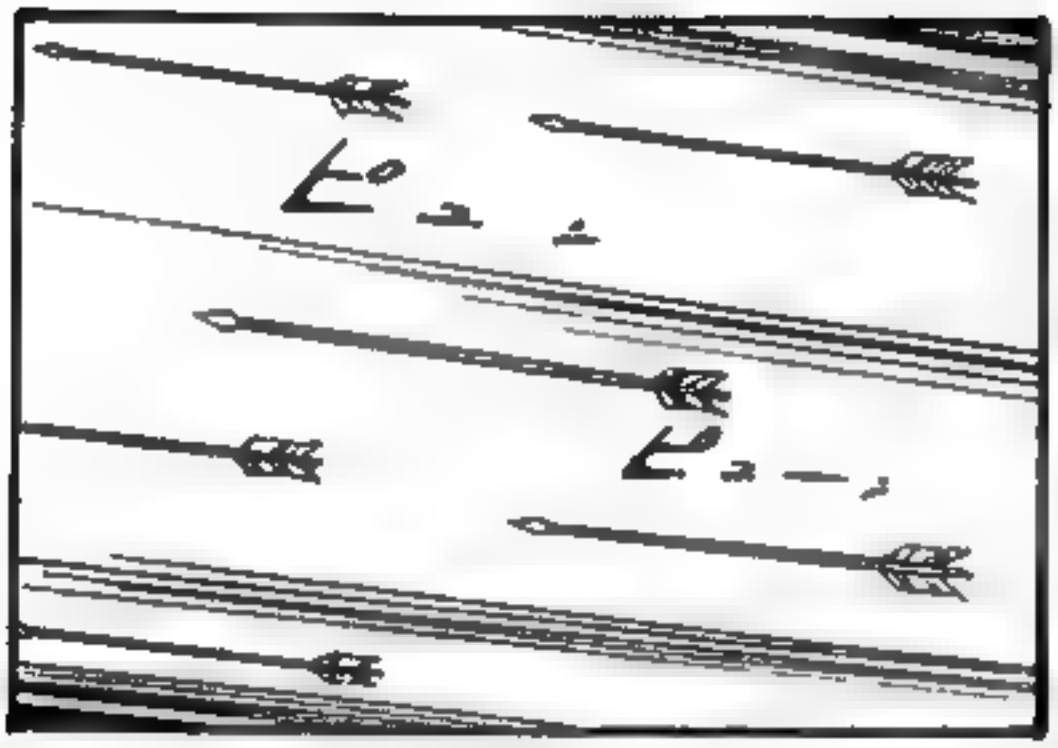


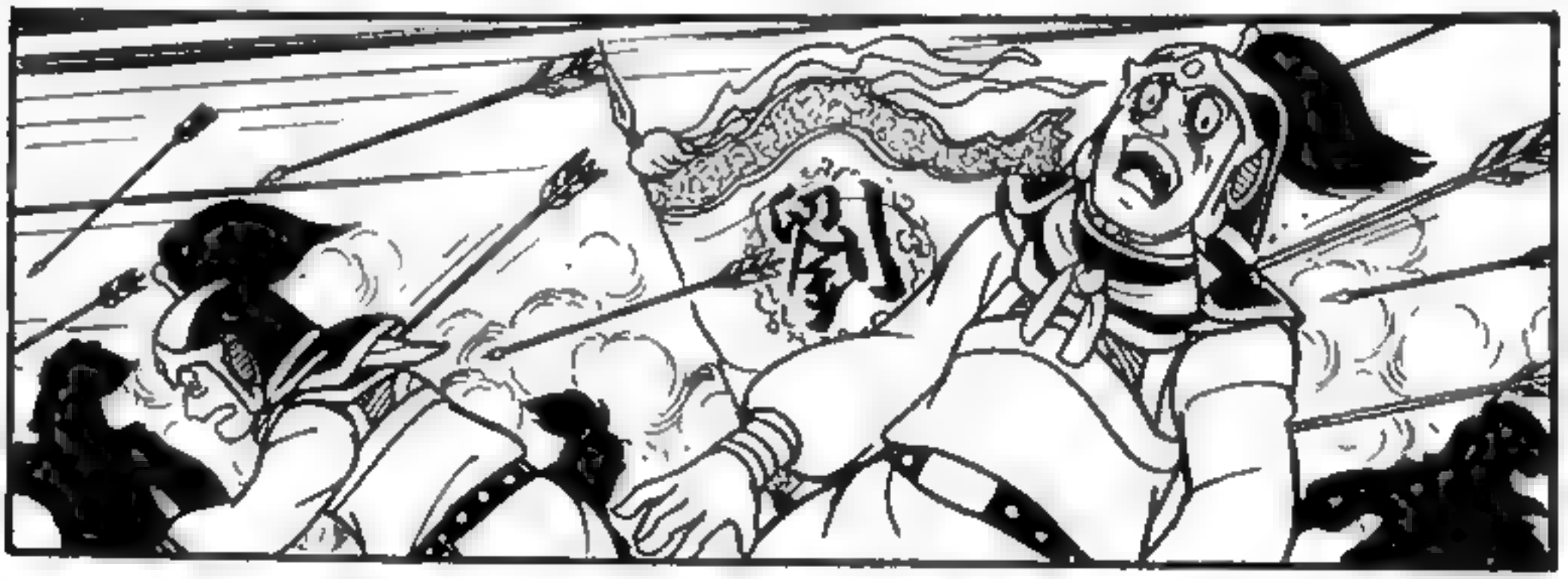


KILL EVERY
LAST ONE
OF THEM!









RETREAT!
ALL
SOLDIERS
RETREAT!

劉
HMM!?
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MEN, WE SHALL MOVE OUT TO XUZHOU CASTLE!
劉

DAMN, TO THINK THE ENEMY ALREADY TOOK XIAOPEI...
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劉

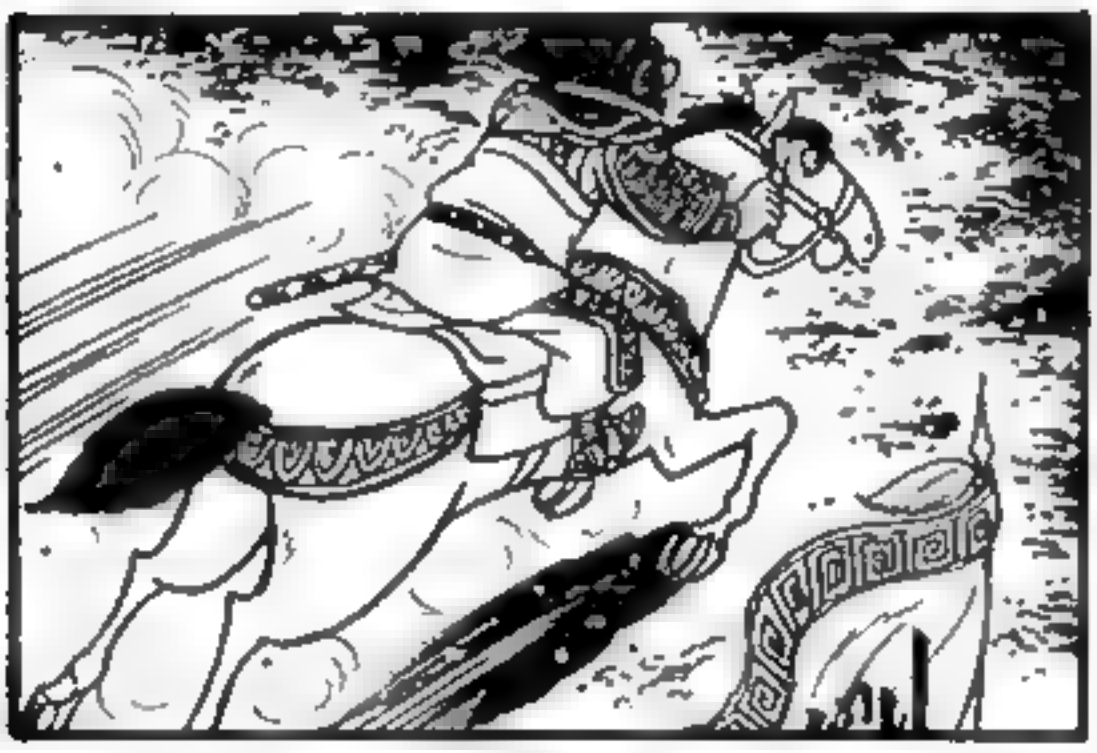
AH!

BEATEN AGAIN...

MY LORD, THOSE ARE CAO CAO'S FLAGS IN XUZHOU!

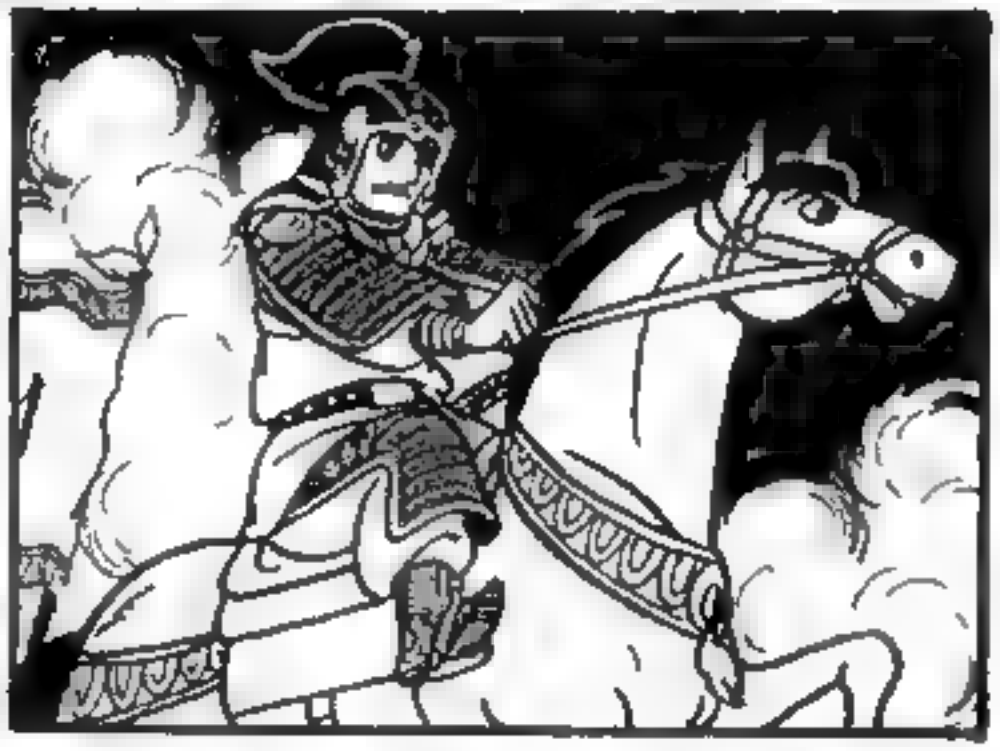
ENEMY FORCES ARE COMING OUT FROM XUZHOU!

RETREAT! WE CANNOT DIE A DOG'S DEATH OUT HERE!



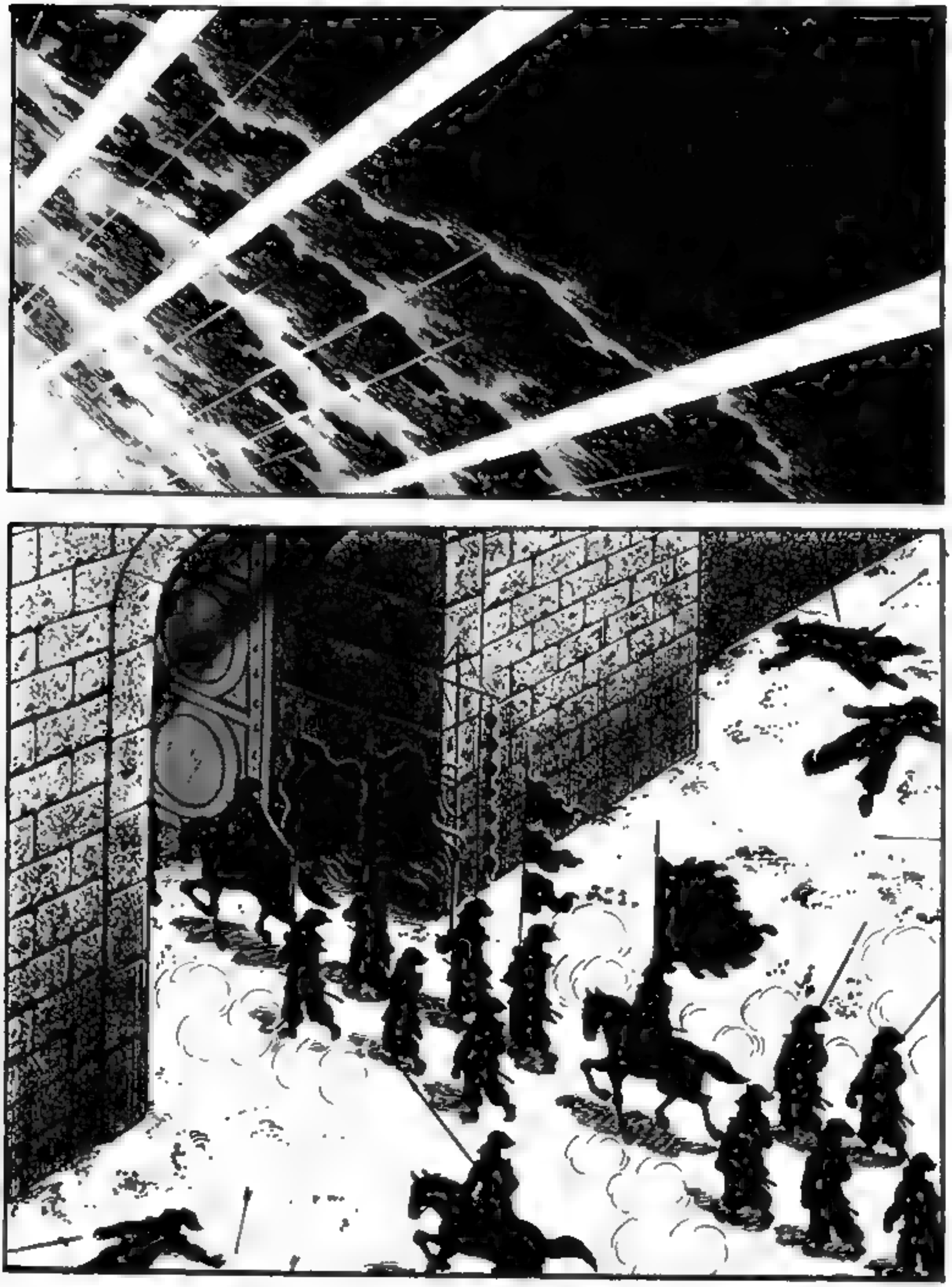
MORE ENE-MIES!?

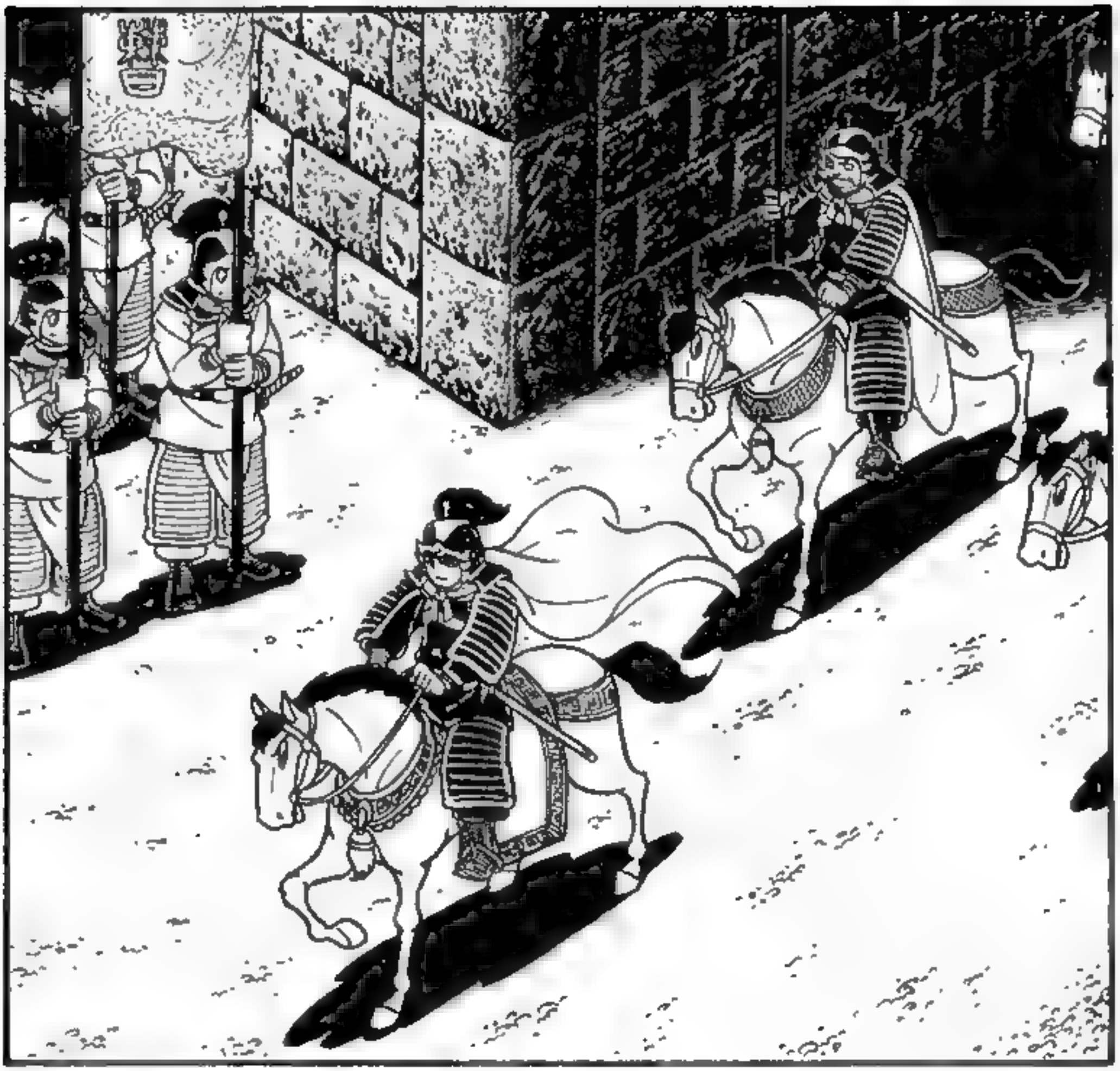
MY LORD, THERE ARE ENEMY FORCES TO BOTH THE RIGHT AND THE LEFT!



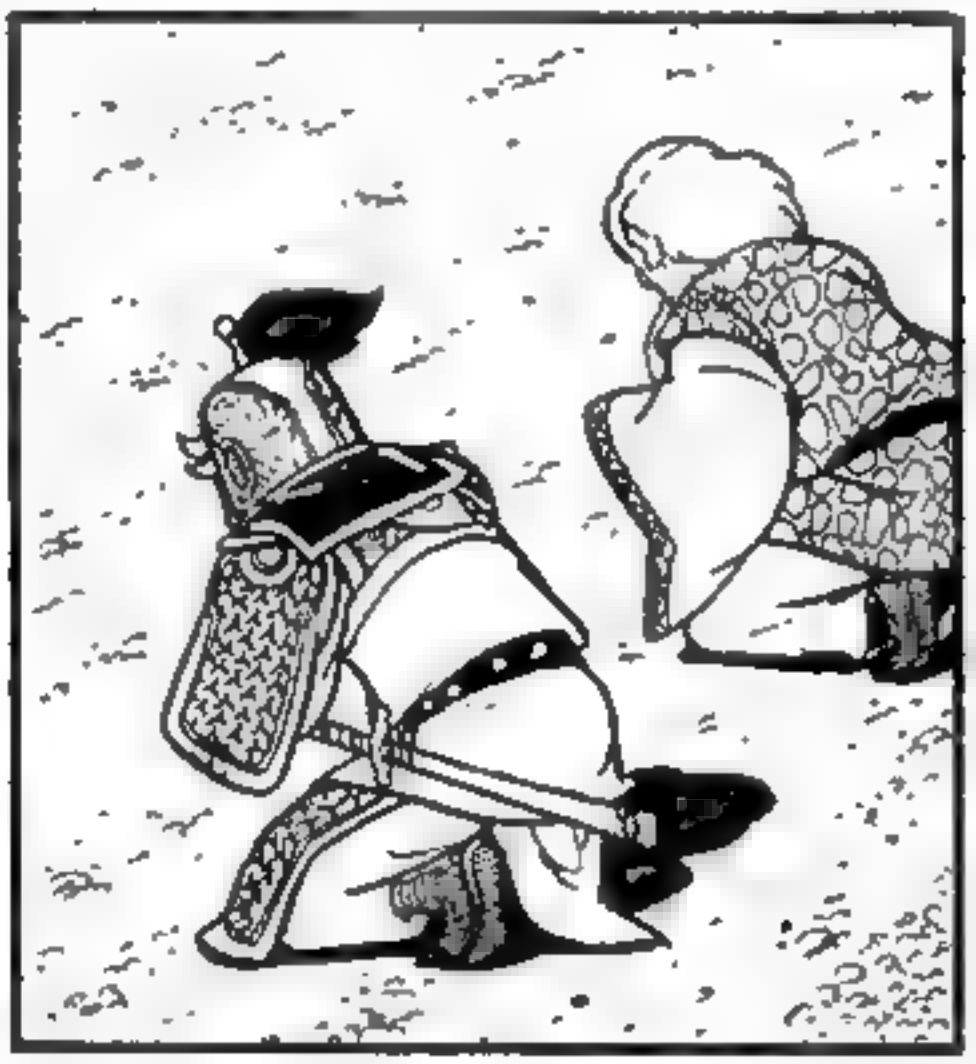
DO NOT LOSE HOPE! WE MUST BREAK THROUGH THESE ENEMY LINES AND SEEK SHELTER WITH YUAN SHAO!

CONDITIONS OF SURRENDER





WELL, IF IT ISN'T THE CHENS.



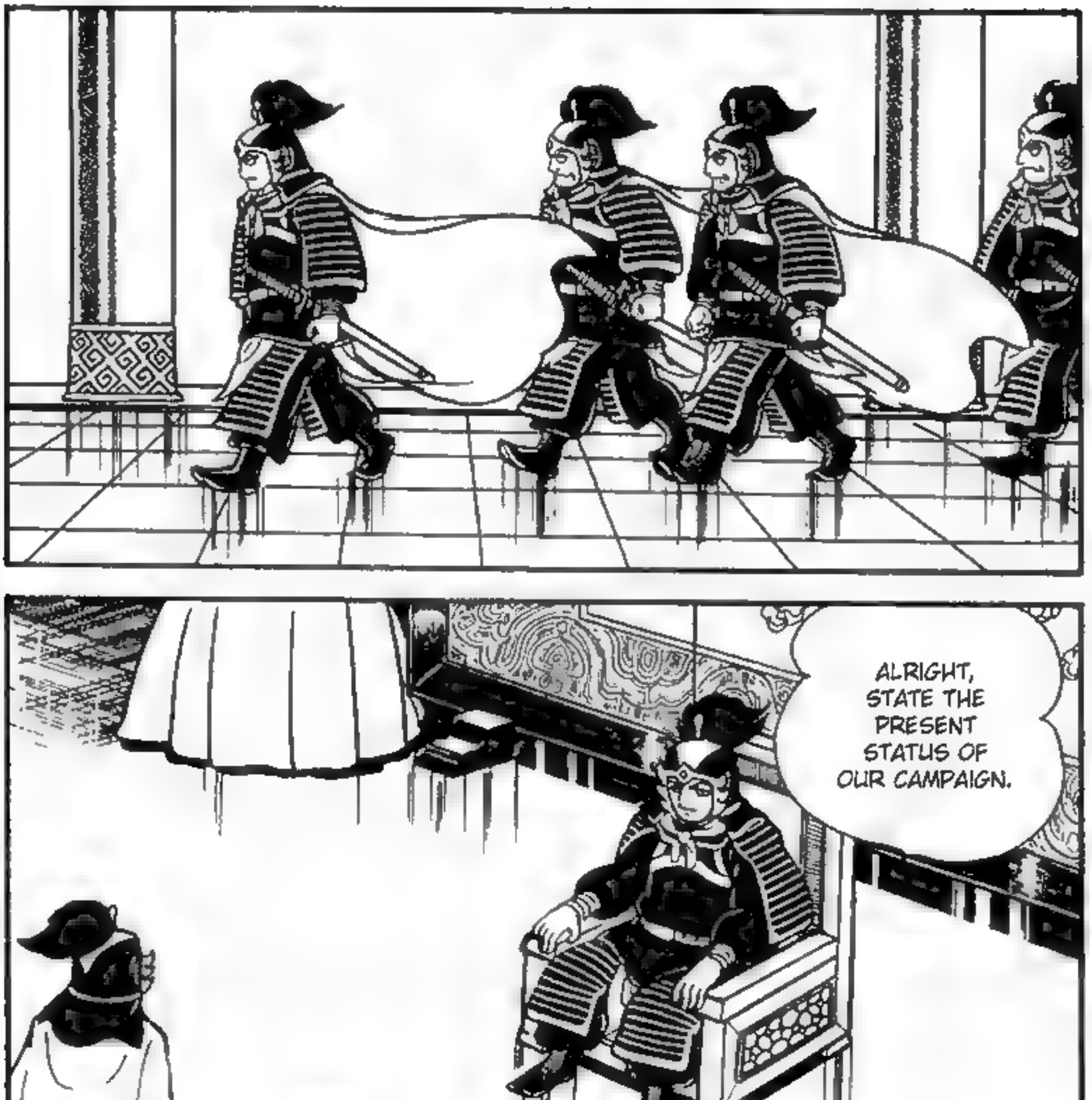
PUNISH US HOWEVER YOU WISH. WE HAVE PREPARED FOR THE CONSE-QUENCES LONG AGO.

I REALLY SHOULD HAVE YOUR HEADS FOR BETRAY-ING ME...

BUT, I'D RATHER NOT SINCE YOU TWO CAN STILL BE OF USE TO ME. SINCE YOUR FAMILY IS RENOWNED AMONG THE PEOPLE OF XUZHOU, YOU ARE TRUSTWORTHY AUTHORITIY FIGURES TO THEM. HELP ME KEEP THE CITIZENS OBEDIENT, AND I SHALL FORGET YOUR PAST CRIMES.

GOOD.

AS LONG AS THE CITIZENS MAY LIVE IN PEACE, WE SHALL GLADLY OBLIGE.


ALRIGHT, STATE THE PRESENT STATUS OF OUR CAMPAIGN.

XIAPI REMAINS THE ONLY OTHER MAJOR CASTLE YET TO BE CAPTURED, BUT IT IS GUARDED TIGHTLY BY GUAN YU AT THE MOMENT.

LIU BEI HAS UNFORTUNATELY ESCAPED FROM OUR HANDS AND IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

YES, BUT WITH A MUCH MORE CAPABLE GENERAL SUCH AS GUAN YU GUARDING IT NOW, XIAPI SHALL PROVE TO BE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO CAPTURE.

XIAPI? ISN'T THAT THE CASTLE THAT LU BU HOLED UP IN, CAUSING US MUCH TROUBLE?

DO ANY OF YOU GENERALS HAVE ANY GOOD IDEAS?

WE MUST AVOID A LONG BATTLE AT ALL COSTS CONSIDERING THE THREAT OF YUAN SHAO'S ARMY ATTACKING XUCHANG.

BUT THE QUESTION IS HOW...?

I BELIEVE THE ONLY VALID OPTION IS TO LURE GUAN YU OUT FROM THE CASTLE, MY LORD.

HMM, IT'S WORTH A TRY.

WE COULD TRY ATTACKING XIAPI AND THEN FEIGNING RETREAT AFTER AWHILE TO ENTICE HIM TO COME OUT FROM THE CASTLE.

?

AND WHAT WOULD THAT BE, MY LORD?

BUT I HAVE A CONDITION OF MY OWN.

I HAVE LONG ADMIRED GUAN YU AND HIS PROWESS AS A WARRIOR. IF POSSIBLE, I'D LIKE TO CAPTURE HIM ALIVE AND MAKE HIM MY SUBORDINATE.

GUAN YU IS A WARRIOR AMONG WARRIORS. KILLING HIM ALONE IS ALREADY DIFFICULT ENOUGH BUT CAPTURING HIM ALIVE? I'M AFRAID THAT THERE'LL BE TREMENDOUS CASUALTIES IF WE ATTEMPT TO TAKE HIM ALIVE, MY LORD.

AND WHAT PLAN DO YOU PROPOSE, ZHANG LIAO?

WORRY NOT, MY LORD. I BELIEVE I MAY HAVE A GOOD PLAN TO CAPTURE HIM ALIVE.

I ASK MY LORD TO GIVE ME LIU BEI'S SOLDIERS THAT HAVE RECENTLY DEFECTED TO OUR SIDE TO CREATE THIS IDEAL SITUATION.

I AM A GOOD ACQUAINTANCE OF GUAN YU. I BELIEVE I MAY BE ABLE TO PERSUADE HIM TO JOIN US, BUT ONLY IN THE RIGHT SET OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

I WILL USE THEM TO FORCE GUAN YU INTO A CORNER WHERE HE WILL HAVE NO BETTER ALTERNATIVE THAN TO SURRENDER.

WHY, WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH THEM?

WE SHALL SEND THOSE SOLDIERS TO XIAPI, WHERE THEY WILL MISINFORM GUAN YU THAT ONLY A SMALL DIVISION OF OUR ARMY IS NEAR XIAPI. HEARING THIS, GUAN YU WILL BE ENTICED TO COME OUT AND ATTACK US. WHILE HE IS OUTSIDE, THOSE MEN WILL OPEN THE GATES FOR OUR ALLIES TO EASILY TAKE THE CASTLE.

I SEE. AN EXCELLENT PLAN, ZHANG LIAO!

ONCE GUAN YU HAS BEEN SURROUNDED ON ALL 4 SIDES WITH NO PLACE TO RETREAT TO, IT SHOULD NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT TO PRESSURE HIM INTO SURRENDERING.

ALRIGHT, I SHALL ENTRUST YOU TO LEAD THE PLAN.

YES, SIR.

YOU SHALL BE MINE AT LAST, GUAN YU.

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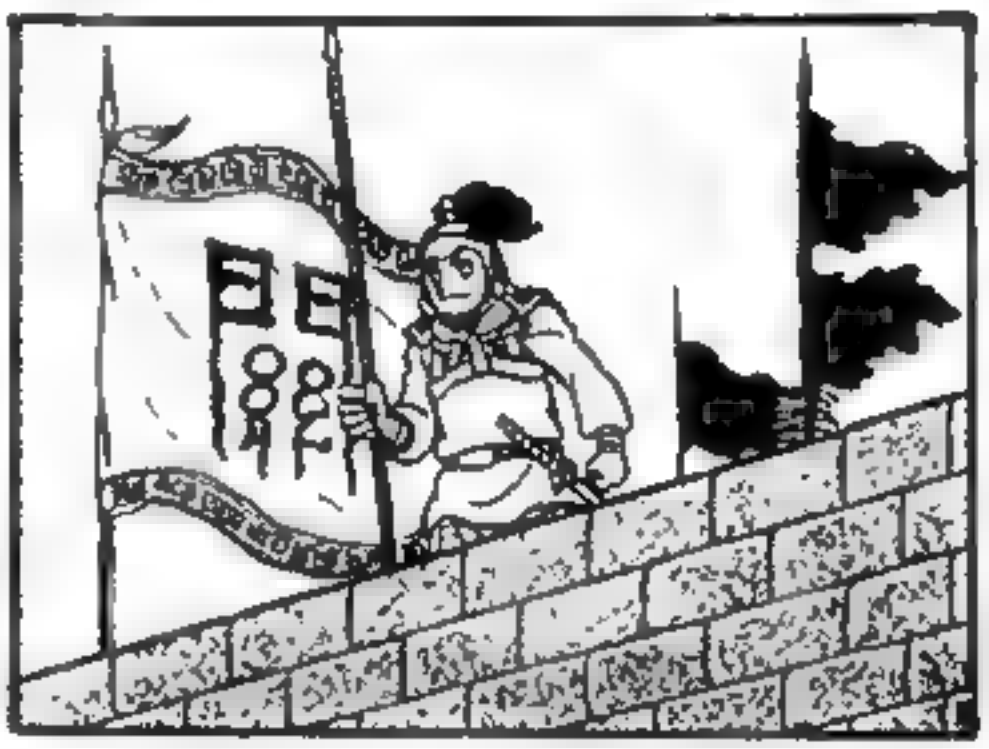
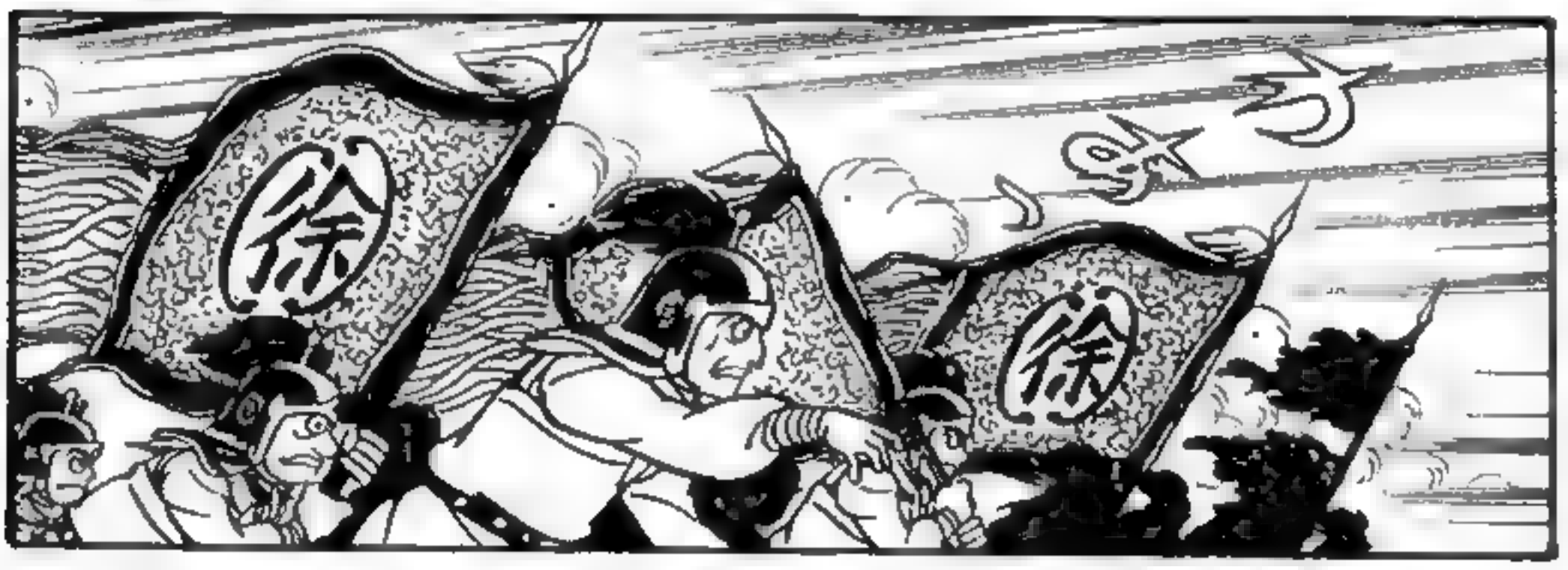
WHAT'S WITH THE RUCKUS!?

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ALRIGHT, LOWER THE DRAW-BRIDGE!

GENERAL, JUDGING BY THE FLAG, THOSE ARE SOLDIERS OF XUZHOU CASTLE!

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GENERAL GUAN YU!

TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED!

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OUR LORD?

I REGRET TO INFORM SIR THAT THE XIAOPEI AND XUZHOU CASTLES HAVE FALLEN INTO ENEMY HANDS. THIS IS THE ONLY CASTLE THAT HAS YET TO BE CAPTURED BY CAO CAO'S FORCES.

LUCKILY, THE ENEMY FORCES ARE MAINLY CONCENTRATED IN XIAOPEI, AND SO WE WERE ABLE TO SAFELY MAKE IT HERE TO XIAPI.

WE DO NOT KNOW, SIR.

YES, SIR.

GO ATTEND TO THE WOUNDED.

I SEE...

YES, SIR.

...

I WANT YOU TWO SCOUTS TO GO AND CONFIRM THE ENEMY MOVEMENTS.

I HOPE MY BROTHERS ARE STILL ALIVE AND WELL...

GENERAL, THE SCOUTS HAVE RETURNED.

IT IS AS THE XUZHOU SOLDIERS HAVE REPORTED, GENERAL.

SO WHERE ARE THE ENEMIES LOCATED CURRENTLY?

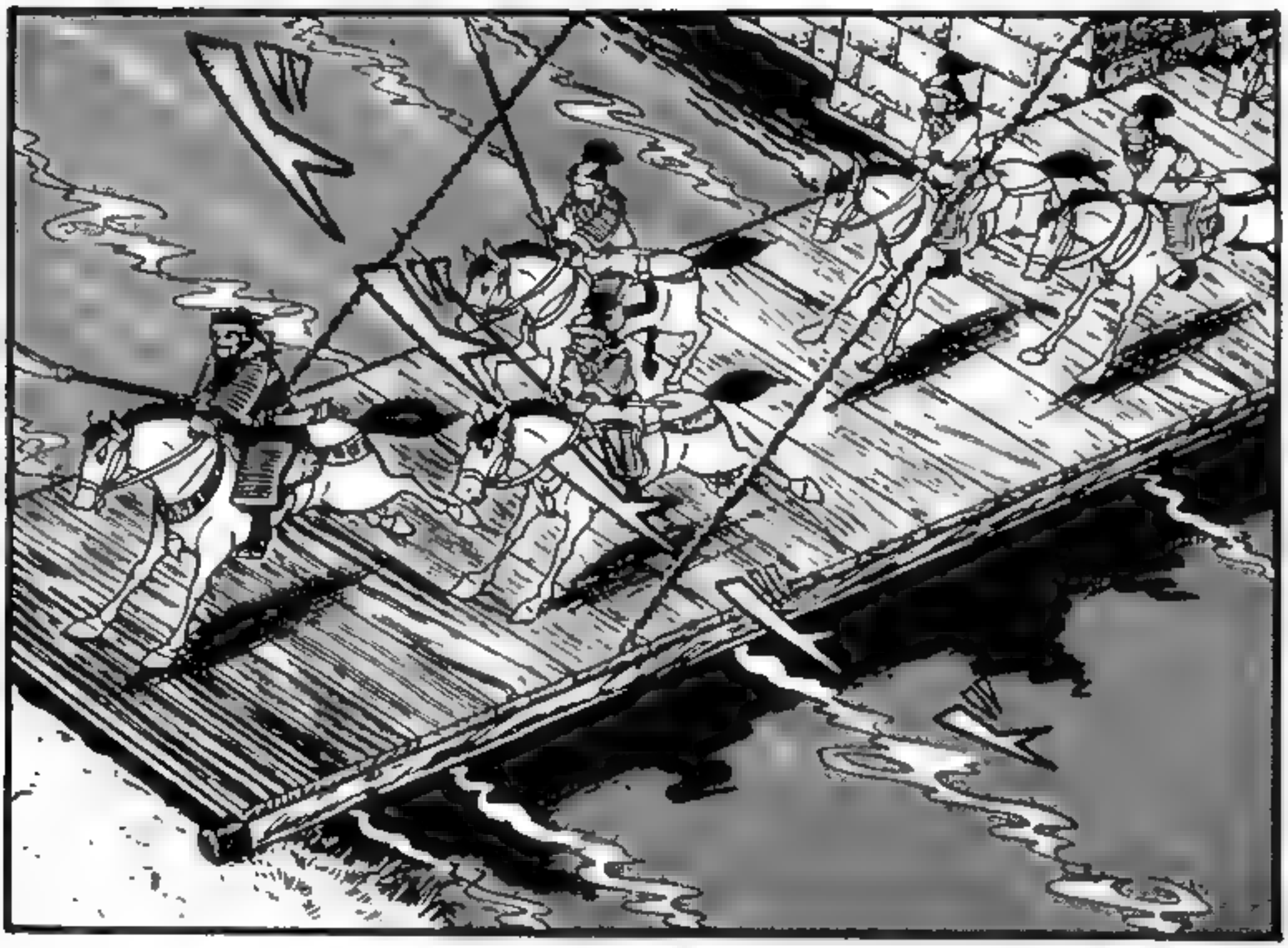
IS THAT SO?

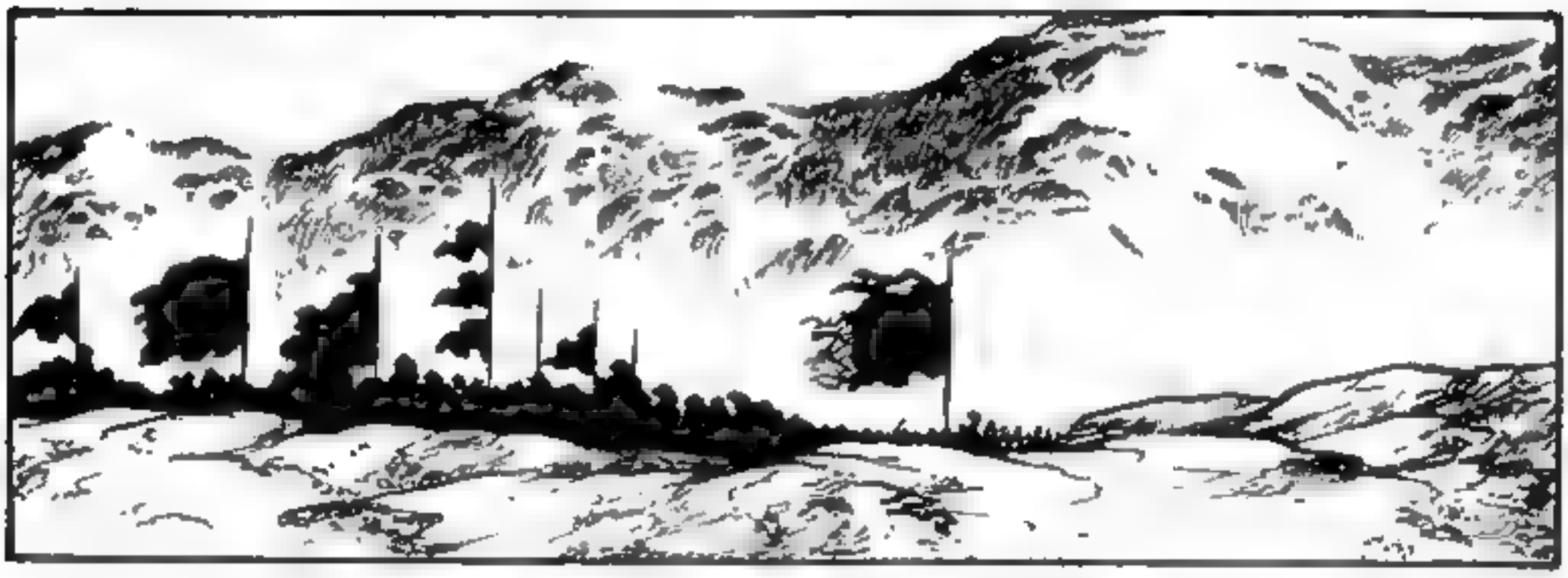
THE BULK OF THEIR FORCES APPEAR TO BE CONCENTRATED AROUND XUZHOU AND XIAOPEI. ONLY A SMALL DIVISION OF THEIR ARMY IS HERE IN XIAPI.

OPEN THE GATES!

WE WILL GO OUT AND DELIVER THE FIRST BLOW. I SHALL PERSONALLY LEAD THE ATTACK.

IF THEIR NUMBERS ARE SMALL, AN OFFENSIVE STRATEGY WILL BE MORE EFFECTIVE.





ALRIGHT MEN, FOLLOW MY COMMAND.

GENERAL, GUAN YU HAS COME OUT FROM XIAPI AS PLANNED.

CHARGE!

ALLOW ME TO TEACH YOU BASTARDS THE MEANING OF FEAR!

?

IS THAT GUAN YU, STANDING BEFORE ME!?

XIAHOU DUN...!

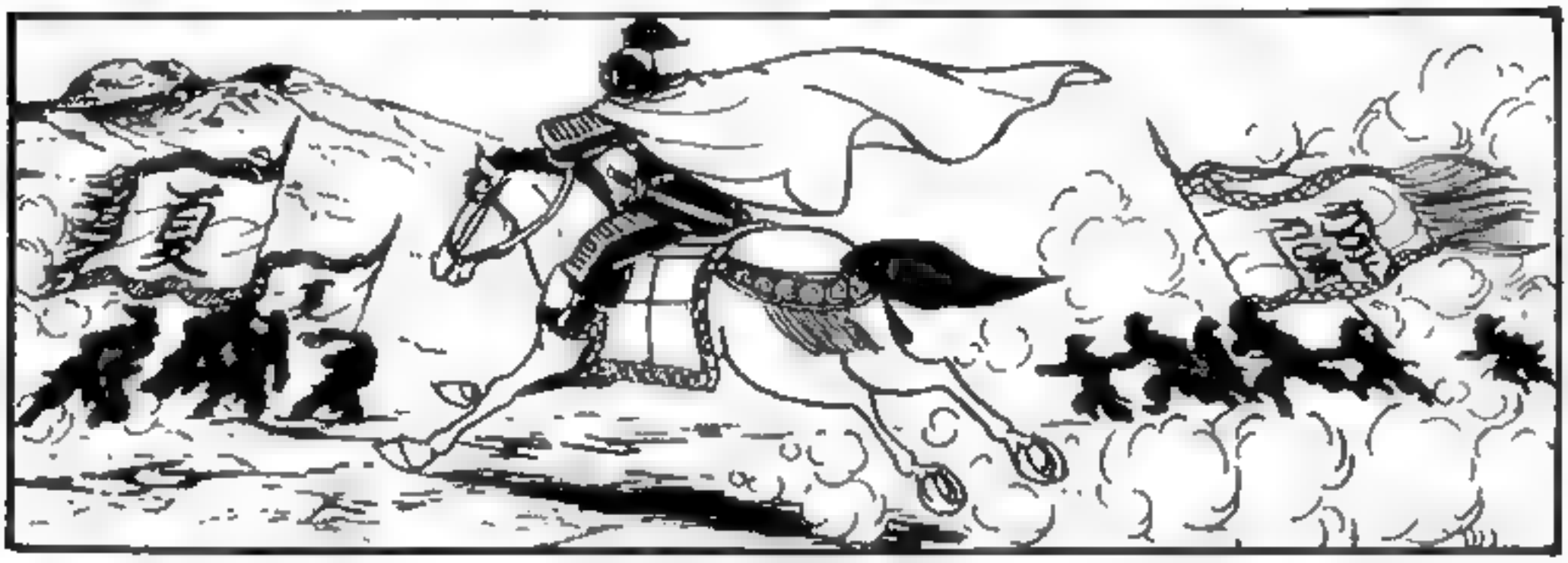
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE STILL STANDING.

YOUR LORD HAS ALREADY FLED IN FEAR AND EVEN THE MIGHTY ZHANG FEI HAS GONE MISSING.

WHY YOU...!

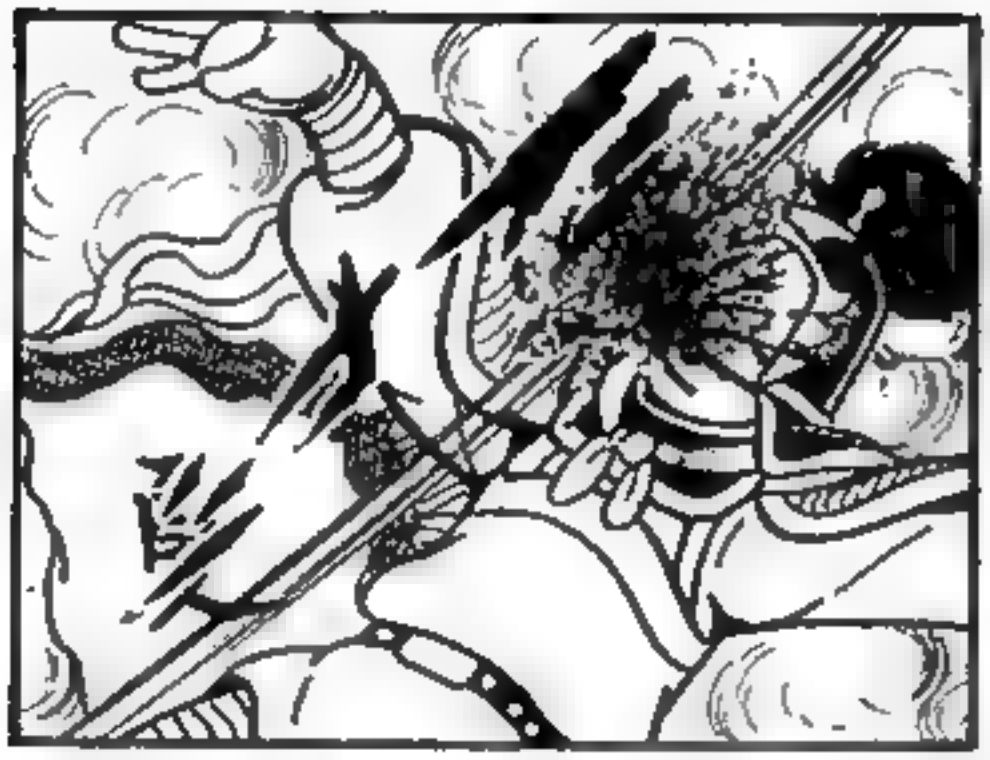
WHY NOT JUST QUIETLY TAKE THE END OF MY SPEAR AND PUT AN END TO YOUR TROUBLES!?

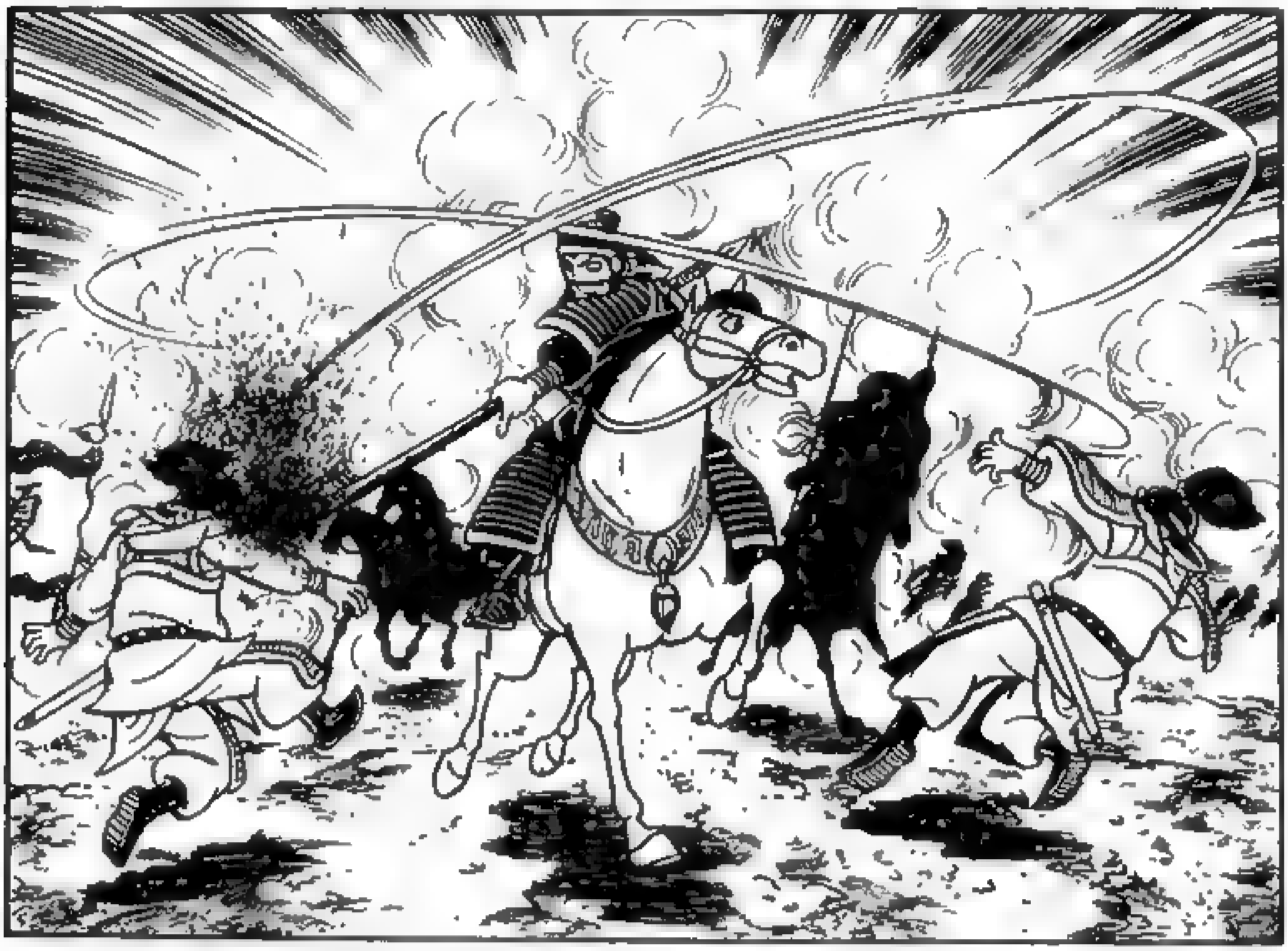
HMPH, SO YOU STILL HAVE SOME SKILL LEFT. WE SHALL SETTLE THIS ANOTHER DAY.



THE ENEMIES ARE RETREATING! AFTER THEM!

COWARD! YOU DARE TURN TAIL IN THE HEAT OF THE BATLE!?



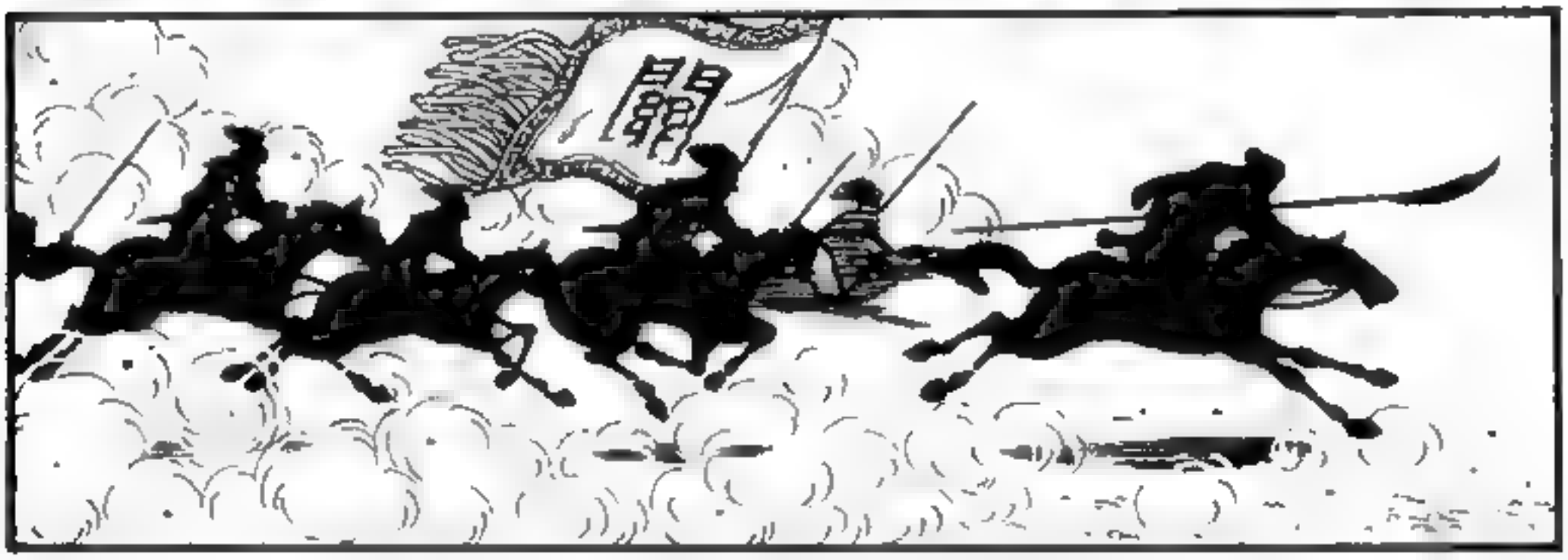


HMM!?

DAMN, I'VE LOST SIGHT OF HIM...

RETREAT BACK TO XIAPI!

WE MAY HAVE VENTURED TOO DEEP INTO ENEMY L NES.

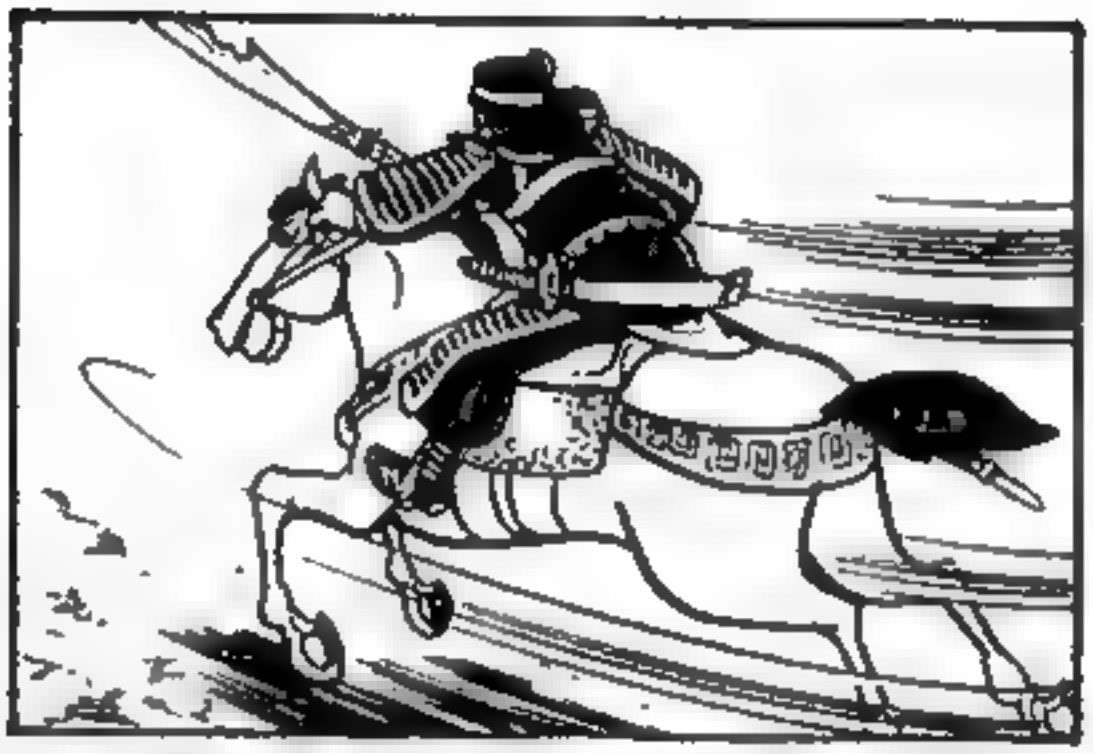


AH!

TURN BACK! WE WILL HEAD BACK TO XIAPI USING ANOTHER PATH!

IT'S AN ENEMY AMBUSH!

HMM?



DAMN! TO THINK THERE WOULD BE ENEMIES LYING IN WAIT HERE TOO...!

AH!

GENERAL, OVER THERE AS WELL!

GENERAL! OUR CASTLE HAS BEEN...!

WE'VE BEEN SURROUNDED!

I'VE COM-
PLETELY
FALLEN INTO
THEIR TRAP...

LISTEN UP, MEN. XIAPI HAS BEEN LOST AND WE ARE SURROUNDED ON ALL SIDES. BUT WE SHALL ATTEMPT TO BREAK THROUGH THE ENEMY LINES AT DAWN TOMORROW.

YES, SIR.

I ADVISE YOU TO GET SOME REST UNTIL THEN.

WHO IS IT!?

HMM?

AND WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE? HAS CAO CAO ASKED YOU TO BRING BACK MY HEAD?

IT IS YOUR OLD FRIEND, ZHANG LIAO.

SO YOU'VE COME TO DEMAND MY SURRENDER?

NO, AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE CHANCELLOR SAID YOU WERE TOO TALENTED OF A MAN TO KILL.

DON'T BE SO CURT WITH ME, AREN'T WE GOOD FRIENDS? LET'S TALK THINGS OVER SLOWLY, SHALL WE?

YES, MY LORD ENTRUSTED ME WITH THE TASK OF PRO-TECTING HER.

WE FOUND YOUR LORD'S WIFE IN XIAPI.

NO NEED TO WORRY, THE CHANCELLOR HAS FORBIDDEN THE MEN FROM LAYING EVEN A SINGLE FINGER UPON HER.

BUT I HAVE FAILED TO DO SO BY LOSING XIAPI...

ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME SURRENDER BY PUTTING ME IN YOUR DEBT?

YES, ONE OF THE REASONS I CAME HERE IS TO TELL YOU THAT.

REALLY?

HAHAHA!

IF SO, THEN IT WON'T WORK. I'M PREPARED TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH TOMORROW.

WHAT!? YOU DARE TO INSULT MY RESOLVE TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH!?

THE WHOLE WORLD WILL LAUGH AT YOUR FOLLY IF YOU RUSH TO YOUR DEATH HERE.

ONE, IS THAT IF YOUR LORD IS STILL ALIVE,

WHAT!?

YOU WILL COMMIT 3 SINS IF YOU DIE HERE AND NOW.

THEN YOU WOULD HAVE BROKEN YOUR OATH OF BROTHER-HOOD, IN WHICH YOU SWORE WITH LIU BEI AND ZHANG FEI TO LIVE AND DIE TOGETHER.

IS THAT IF YOU DIE FIGHTING TOMORROW, YOU WILL HAVE SELFISHLY ABANDONED YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR LORD'S WIFE. JUST WHO COULD CALL YOU A TRUE HERO IF YOU ACTED SO IRRESPONSIBLY?

THE 2ND SIN,

YOU WOULD DIE WITHOUT ACCOMPLISHING ANYTHING. HOW COULD ANYONE CALL YOU A TRUE LOYAL SERVANT OF HAN THEN?

IS THAT THOUGH YOU HAVE RISEN FOR THE SAKE OF THE PEOPLE AND THIS NATION,

AND THE 3RD SIN,

MNN...

I KNOW THAT YOU ARE NOT ONLY COURAGEOUS BUT ALSO WISE. SURELY YOU CAN SEE THE FOLLY OF YOUR DECISION, NO?

SO HOW ABOUT LIVING JUST A LITTLE LONGER TO CONFIRM THE WHEREA-BOUTS OF YOUR BROTHERS, PROTECT YOUR LORD'S WIFE, AND BE OF SERVICE TO HIS HIGNESS AND THE HAN DYNASTY?

IT'S EXACTLY AS YOU'VE SAID.

NOTHING WILL COME OF DYING RIGHT NOW.

I CAN HELP YOU ACHIEVE THOSE THREE THINGS IF YOU SURRENDER.

GOOD, I'M GLAD YOU CAN SEE THE GREATER PICTURE.

SHAMEFUL AS IT MAY BE, IT WOULD BE WISE TO SURRENDER.

WHICH ARE...?

BUT I HAVE 3 CONDITIONS OF MY OWN.

AS LONG AS YOU CAN ACCEPT THESE 3 CONDITIONS, I SHALL PEACEFULLY SURENDER.

FIRST, I AM NOT SURRENDERING TO CAO CAO, BUT TO THE HAN DYNASTY. SECOND, MY LORD'S WIFE SHALL BE UNDER MY CARE ALONE AND HER SAFETY WILL BE GUARANTEED. THIRD, I WILL GO BACK TO MY LORD AS SOON AS I CONFIRM HIS WHEREABOUTS.

ALRIGHT, I SHALL GO TELL THE CHANCELLOR OF YOUR CONDITIONS THEN.

SO HE WANTS ME TO ACCEPT THOSE 3 CONDITIONS?

I ADMIRE HIS PATRIOTISM IN SUBMITTING TO HAN AND NOT TO ME.

HE'S DEFI-NITELY AS GREAT OF A MAN AS I HAD EXPECTED HIM TO BE.

BUT WHAT TROUBLES ME IS HIS 3RD CONDITION.

BUT AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, HE IS STILL INDIRECTLY SUBMITTING TO MY AUTHORITY. HIS SECOND CONDITION ALSO POSES NO PROBLEMS TO ME WHATSOEVER.

HIS THIRD CONDITION GOES TO SHOW JUST HOW MUCH HE THINKS OF LIU BEI.

IF I ALLOW HIM TO RUN BACK TO LIU BEI, THEN ISN'T HIS SURRENDER VIRTUALLY MEANINGLESS FOR ME?

FINE, I ACCEPT HIS TERMS.

HMM, CERTAINLY THAT POSSIBILITY EXISTS.

BUT JUST AS LIU BEI MANAGED TO WIN OVER HIS HEART WITH KINDNESS, I'M SURE MY LORD COULD SWAY HIS HEART AS WELL EVENTUALLY.

AH, THANK YOU.

I HAVE COME BACK WITH THE CHANCELLOR'S REPLY.

SO WHAT WAS HIS RESPONSE?

I SEE.

THE CHANCELLOR SAID HE WOULD GLADLY ACCEPT ALL 3 CONDITIONS.

I STILL HAVE SOMETHING I NEED TO DO FIRST.

NOT JUST YET,

NOW WHY DON'T YOU COME DOWN THIS MOUNTAIN AND JOIN ME?

IS THERE REALLY A NEED TO GO THAT FAR...?

MY NEGOTIATION WITH YOU SO FAR HAS ONLY BEEN MY IDEA. I STILL NEED TO INFORM MILADY AND RECEIVE HER CONSENT.

AND SO I MUST ASK YOU TO WITHDRAW YOUR FORCES BOLI BACK FROM XIAPI WHILE I TALK TO HER.

OF COURSE THERE IS! WHILE MY LORD IS AWAY, HIS WIFE IS MY LORD, AND I, HER SUBJECT. THEREFORE, RECEIVING MILADY'S APPROVAL IS ABSOLUTELY NECCESSARY.

ALRIGHT.

I'LL SEE YOU LATER THEN.

YOU HAVE MY WORD AS A WARRIOR.

FINE, BUT YOU MUST PROMISE TO SURRENDER AFTER THAT.

GIVE THE ORDERS FOR THE MEN TO LEAVE XIAPI AND MOVE BACK 30LI.

I SEE. WELL, THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED FROM A MAN OF PRINCIPLES.

MY LORD! WHAT IF HE WERE TO GO BACK ON HIS WORD AND FIGHT US FROM WITHIN THE CASTLE!?

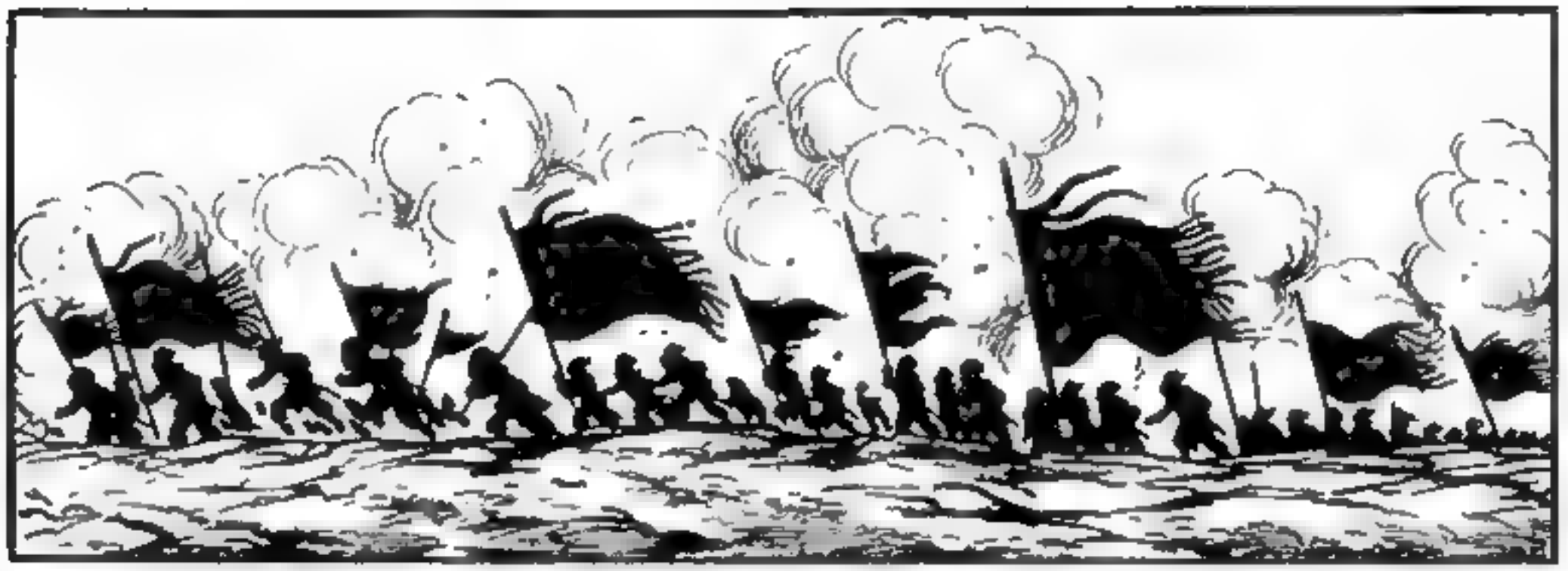
AND IF HE IS SO DISHONOURABLE AS TO BREAK HIS WORD, THEN HE IS NOT THE WARRIOR I DESIRE.

HOW COULD I ACCEPT HIS THREE CONDITIONS AND THEN NOT TRUST HIM TO TALK IN PRIVATE WITH HIS MILADY?

NOW TELL THE MEN TO RETREAT.

YES, IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE WERE COURTING A MOST BEAUTIFUL LADY.

OUR LORD CERTAINLY THINKS THE WORLD OF GUAN YU, DOESN'T HE?



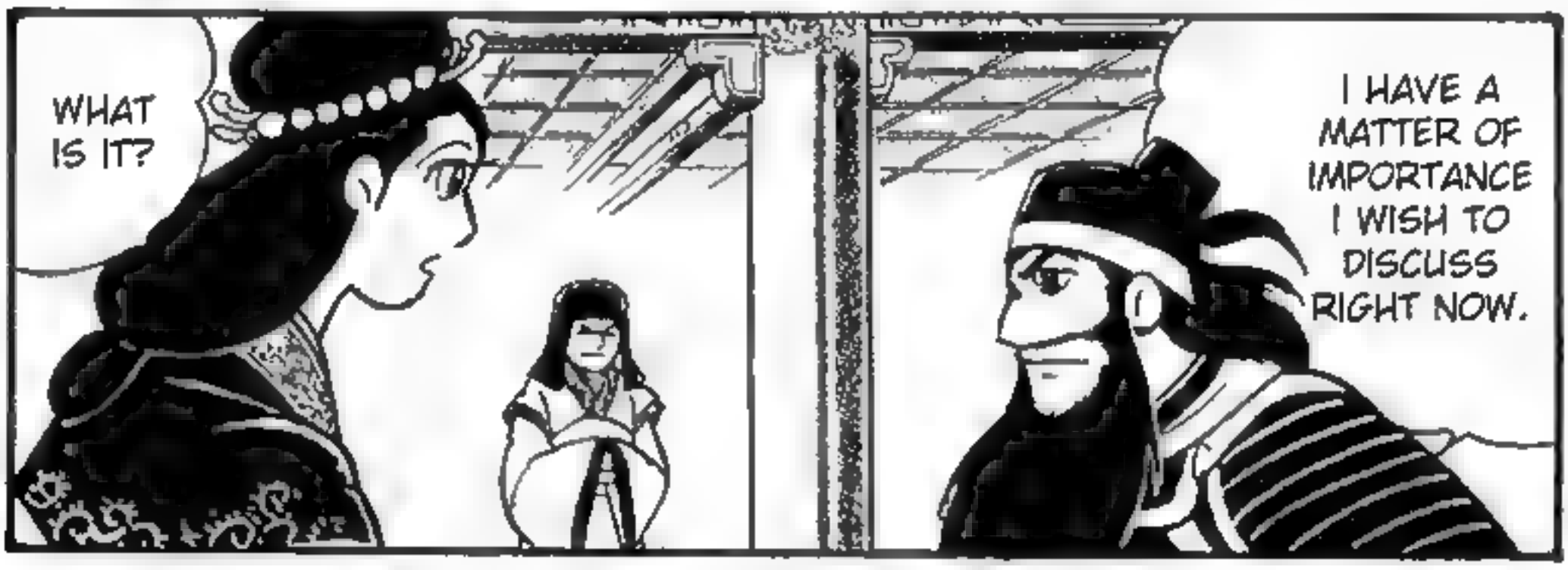
ALRIGHT, LET US HEAD BACK TO THE CASTLE!

GENERAL, THE ENEMIES HAVE RETREATED FROM XIAPI!

GENERAL GUAN YU!

THE GENERAL HAS RETURNED SAFE AND SOUND!

I APOLOGIZE FOR WORRYING YOU, MILADY.
IT IS A RELIEF TO SEE YOU ALIVE AND WELL, GENERAL.


WHAT IS IT?
I HAVE A MATTER OF IMPORTANCE I WISH TO DISCUSS RIGHT NOW.

ARE YOU ABANDONING YOUR LORD, LIU BEI?

WORRY NOT, FOR I HAVE DONE NO SUCH THING.

WHAT!? YOU'RE SURRENDERING TO CAO CAO!?

AS A MERE WOMAN, I DO NOT HAVE ANY WISE ADVICE TO GIVE YOU, GENERAL.

I HAVE SPECIFICALLY MADE CAO CAO ACCEPT MY CONDITION THAT I MAY RETURN TO MY LORD ONCE I CONFIRM HIS WHEREABOUTS. AND SO WE SHALL ONLY BE UNDER CAO CAO'S CARE TEMPORARILY.

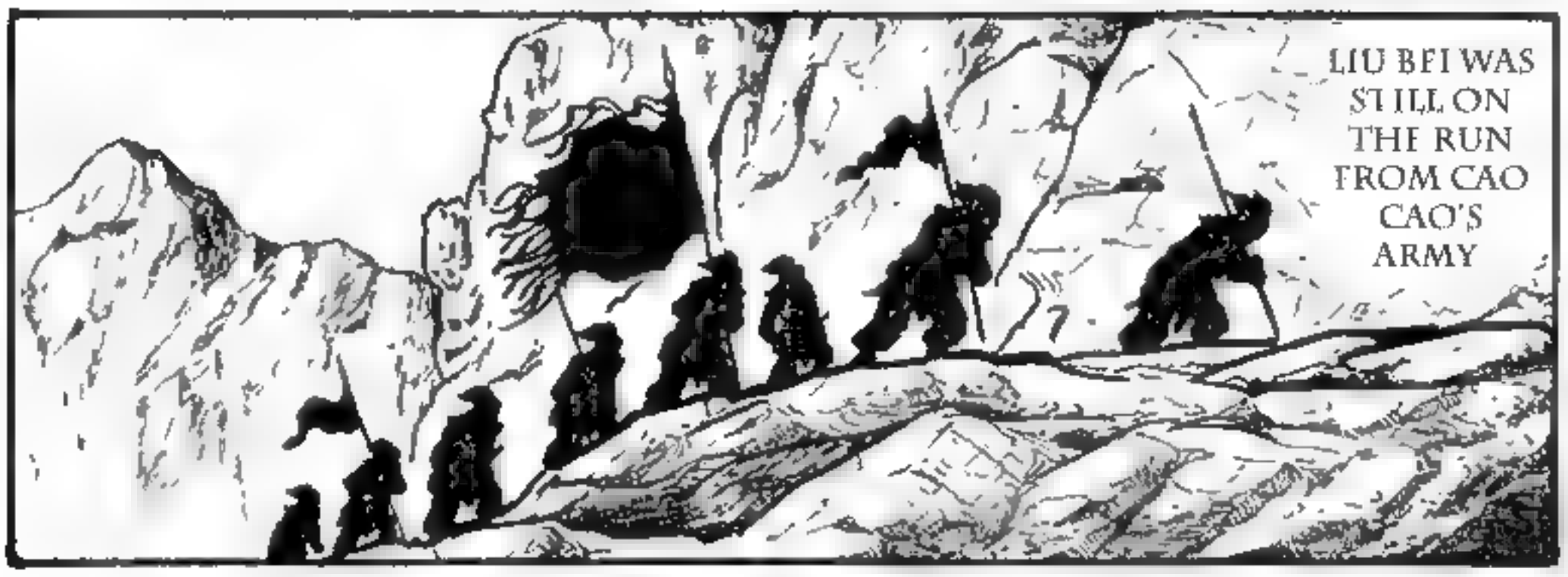
THANK YOU.

I SHALL ENTRUST EVERYTHING WITHIN YOUR HANDS.

AND THUS GUAN YU HAD SURRENDERED AND ENTERED CAO CAO'S SERVICE.

MEANWHILE ..

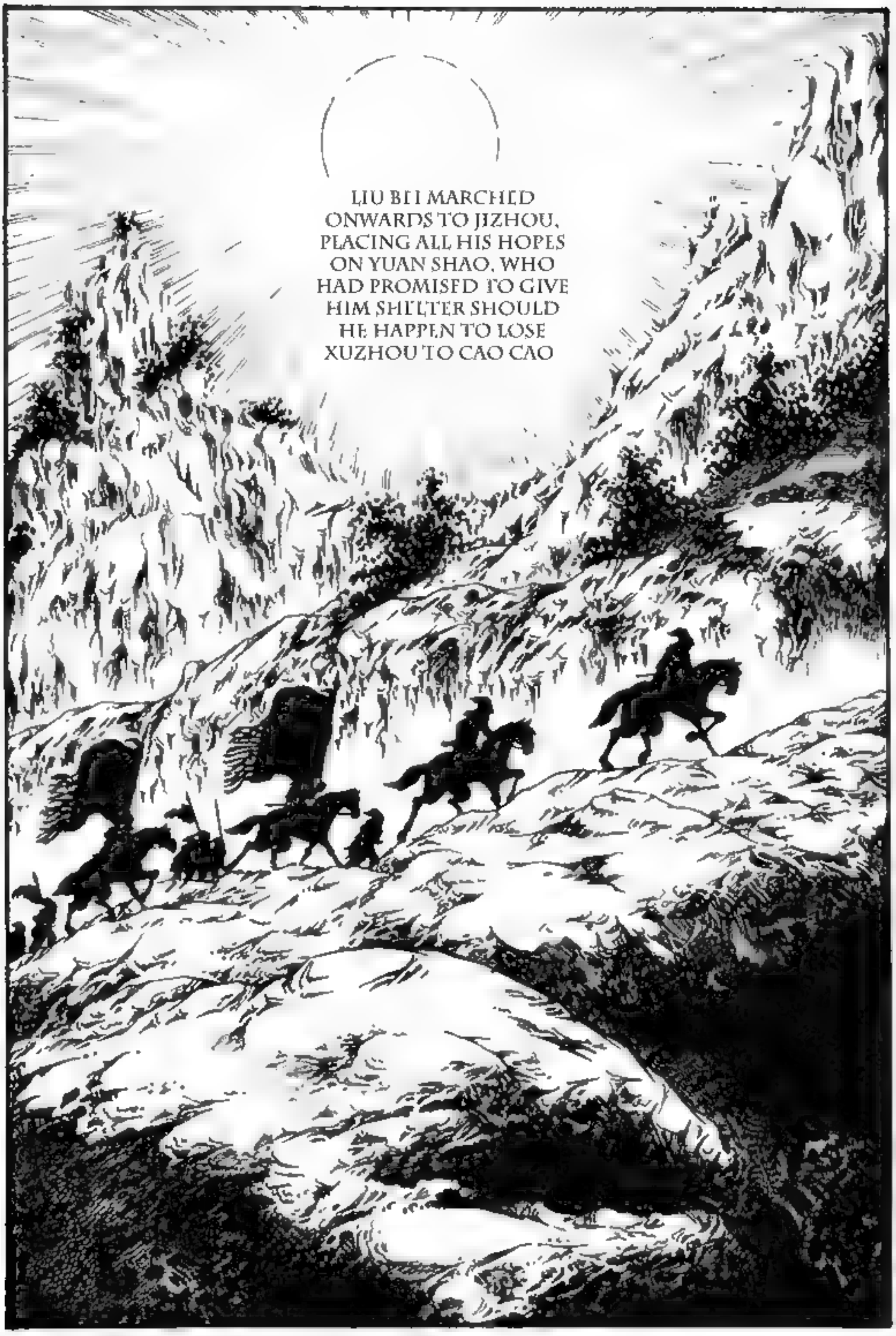
SEPARATED FROM HIS BROTHERS,


LIU BEI WAS STILL ON THE RUN FROM CAO CAO'S ARMY

UP ON THE MOUN-TAINS,

HE AND HIS SOLDIERS WERE REDUCED TO EATING WILD RATS AND GRASS.

DESPITE THEIR HUNGER AND EXHAUSTION, THEY MARCHED ON


LIU BEI MARCHED ONWARDS TO JIZHOU, PLACING ALL HIS HOPES ON YUAN SHAO, WHO HAD PROMISED TO GIVE HIM SHELTER SHOULD HE HAPPEN TO LOSE XUZHOU TO CAO CAO

A RETAINER'S MORALS

SO HE'S STILL WORRIED ABOUT LIU BEI...

HMM...

HE CHECKS HIS MILADY'S STATUS DAILY AND SPENDS THE REST OF HIS TIME QUIETLY READING.

YES, CHANCELLOR.

I MUST DO MY BEST TO CHEER HIM UP. GO AND BRING HIM HERE.

YES, CHANCELLOR.

AS FOR YOU TWO, I WANT YOU TO GO AND PREPARE A MOST LAVISH BANQUET FOR GUAN YU'S HONOUR.

YES, HE WISHES FOR SIR TO COME RIGHT AWAY.

THE CHANCELLOR CALLS FOR ME?

FINE, BUT I MUST TELL MILADY BEFORE I LEAVE.

MILADY,

YOU WORK TOO HARD FOR MY SAKE, GENERAL.

CHANCELLOR CAO CAO HAS CALLED FOR MY PRESENCE SO I WILL BE AWAY AWHILE.

NO, IT IS MERELY MY DUTY TO BE BY MILADY'S SIDE AND KEEP YOU INFORMED.

ALRIGHT, I AM READY TO GO. LEAD THE WAY.

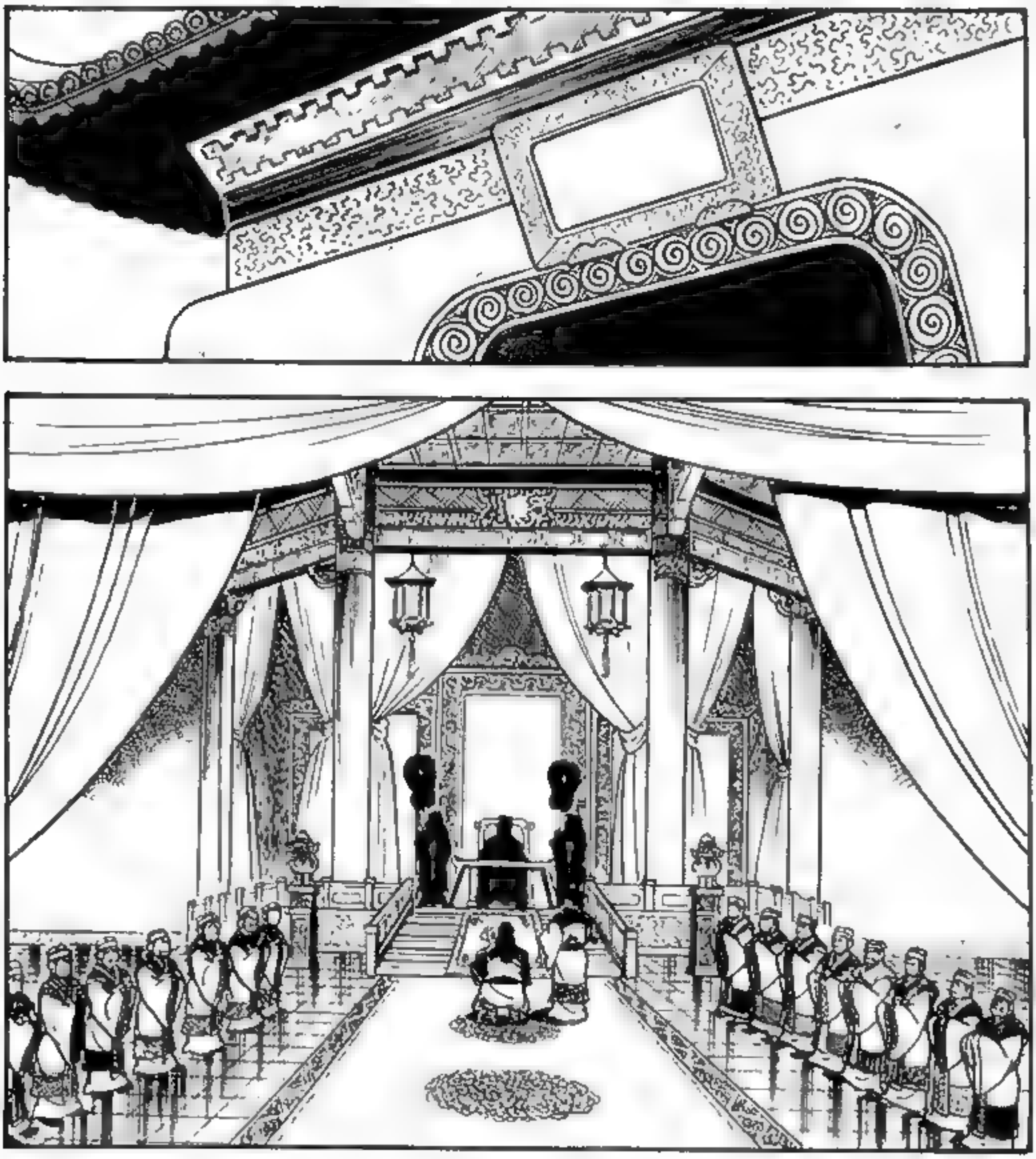
AH, GOOD DAY GUAN YU.

DID SIR CALL FOR ME?

YES, I DID. I HAD HEARD YOU'VE BEEN FEELING GLOOMY THESE DAYS AND SO I WISH TO CHEER YOU UP, IF JUST A LITTLE.

YES, CHAN-CELLOR.

HE HAS AGREED TO SEE YOU.
BUT BEFORE THAT, LET US GO GREET HIS HIGHNESS.



AH, SO YOU ARE GUAN YU?

I PRESENT TO YOUR HIGHNESS, LIU BEI'S SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER, GUAN YU.

I AM HONOURED, YOUR HIGHNESS.

EVEN I HAVE HEARD OF YOUR GREAT FEATS AS A WARRIOR.

WHY YES, INDEED. IN FACT I WISHED TO SPEAK TO YOUR HIGHNESS ABOUT PROMOTING GUAN YU'S RANK.

CHANCELLOR CAO CAO, SURELY THERE MUST BE SOME TITLE I MAY BESTOW UPON HIM?

YES, THAT WILL BE GOOD.

WHAT DOES YOUR HIGHNESS THINK OF THE RANK, "LOYALIST GENERAL OF HAN"?

GUAN YU, YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN THE RANK OF LOYALIST GENERAL OF HAN BY HIS HIGHNESS.

YES, YOUR HIGHNESS.

I HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO BE OF GREAT SERVICE TO OUR HAN.

.....

I CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR NEW PROMOTION. BUT THAT IS NOT ALL, I HAD PLANNED SOMETHING ELSE TO RAISE YOUR SPIRITS.

THIS WAY.

THESE MEN HAVE ALL GATHERED TO CELEBRATE IN YOUR HONOUR.

PLEASE, TAKE A SEAT NEXT TO ME.

GENTLEMEN, LET US RAISE A GLASS TO GUAN YU AND HIS NEW RANK.

TO GUAN YU!

TO GUAN YU, THE LOYALIST GENERAL!

I HOPE WE CAN ENJOY A DRINK OR TWO LIKE THIS MORE OFTEN.

YES, CHANCEL-LOR. I THANK SIR FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART FOR GOING TO SUCH LENGTHS FOR ME.

WELL? DID THE BANQUET MANAGE TO CHEER YOU UP?

I HOPE YOU WILL ACCEPT THESE GIFTS OF MINE.

GOOD.

I AM SPEECHLESS BY SIR'S KINDNESS. I SHALL GRACIOUSLY ACCEPT.

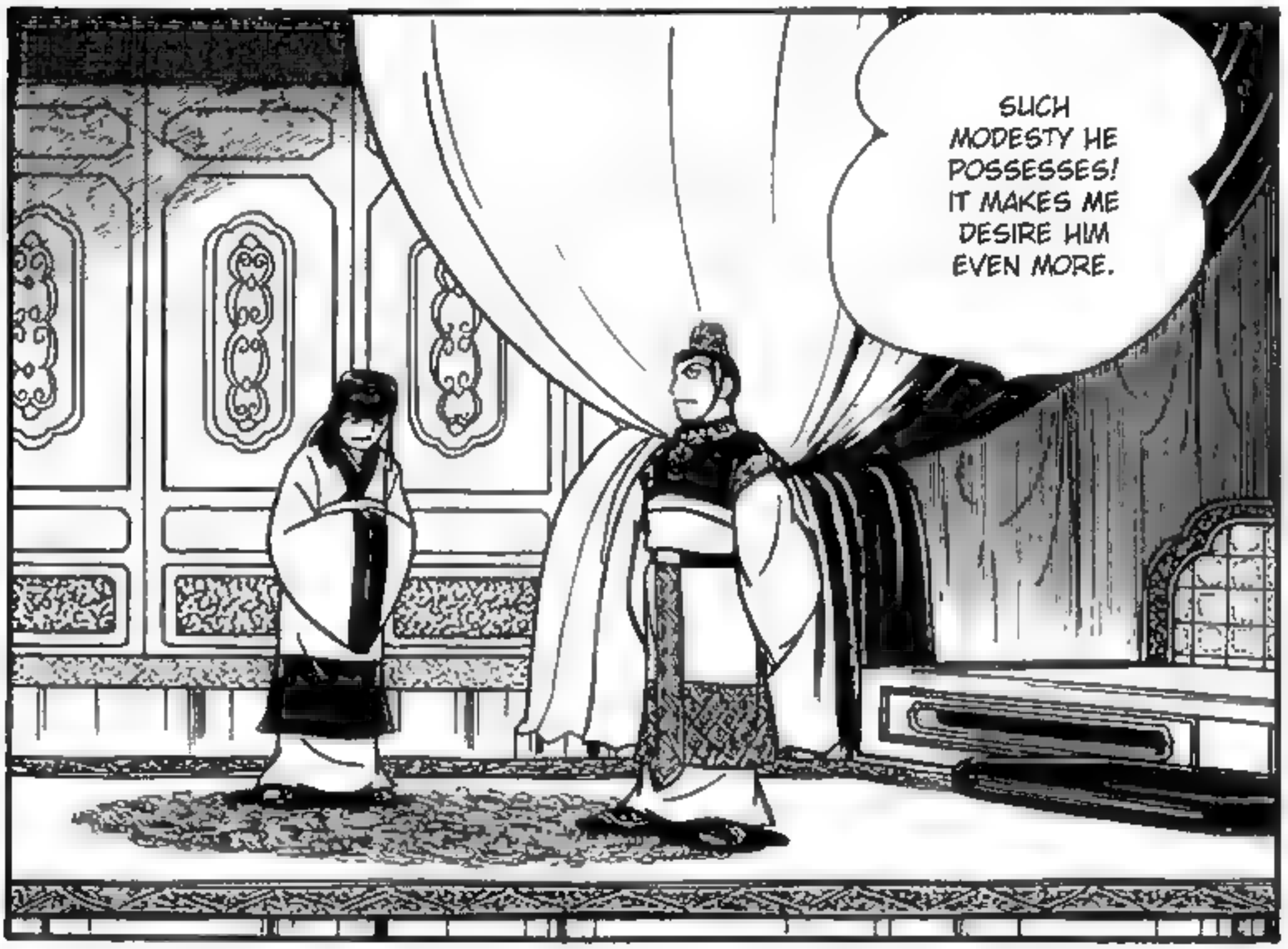
YES, BUT I BELIEVE MILADY WILL FIND A BETTER USE FOR IT THAN I SO I SHALL LEAVE IT HERE.

CAO CAO GAVE YOU ALL THIS!?

.....

IT SEEMS THAT CAO CAO IS QUITE TAKEN WITH YOU...

SO HE GAVE AWAY ALL OF MY GIFTS TO LIU BEI'S WIFE?


SUCH MODESTY HE POSSESSES! IT MAKES ME DESIRE HIM EVEN MORE.

FROM THAT DAY ONWWARDS, CAO CAO INVITED GUAN YU TO BANQUETS AND PRIVATE DRINKS AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY

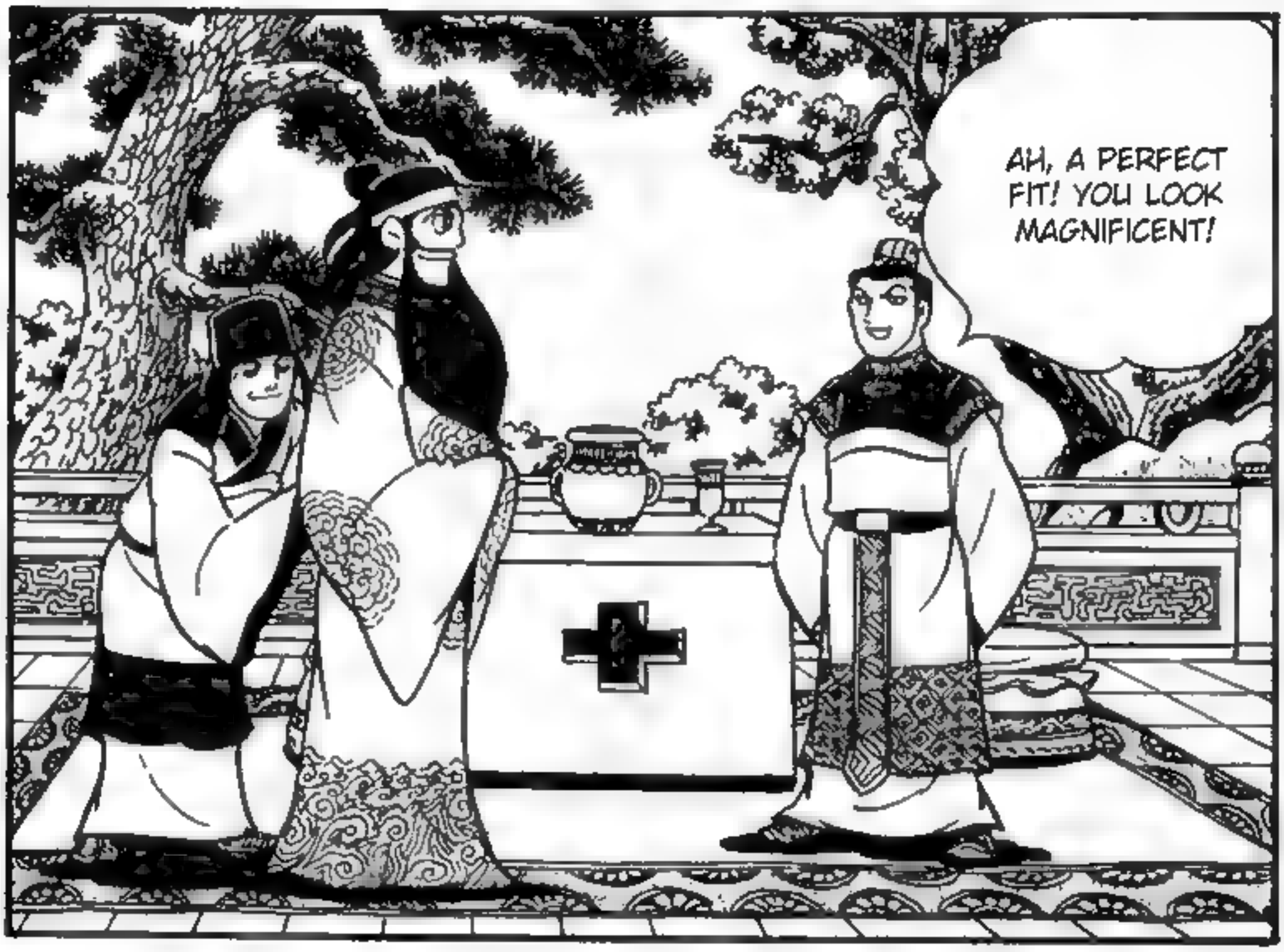
I'VE JUST NOTICED THAT YOUR ROBE IS QUITE OLD AND TATTERED.

SERVANT, BRING IT HERE.

PLEASE, TRY IT ON.

WHAT A SPLENDID ROBE THIS IS!
I'D LIKE TO PRESENT YOU WITH THIS ROBE, IF I MAY.

YES, SIR.


AH, A PERFECT FIT! YOU LOOK MAGNIFICENT!

HMM?

WHY DO YOU WEAR THAT TATTERED OLD ROBE OVER YOUR NEW ONE?

THIS ROBE WAS GIVEN TO ME BY MY LORD. TO WEAR IT AT THE START OF EVERY MORNING FILLS ME WITH BLISS AS IF I AM GREETING MY LORD.

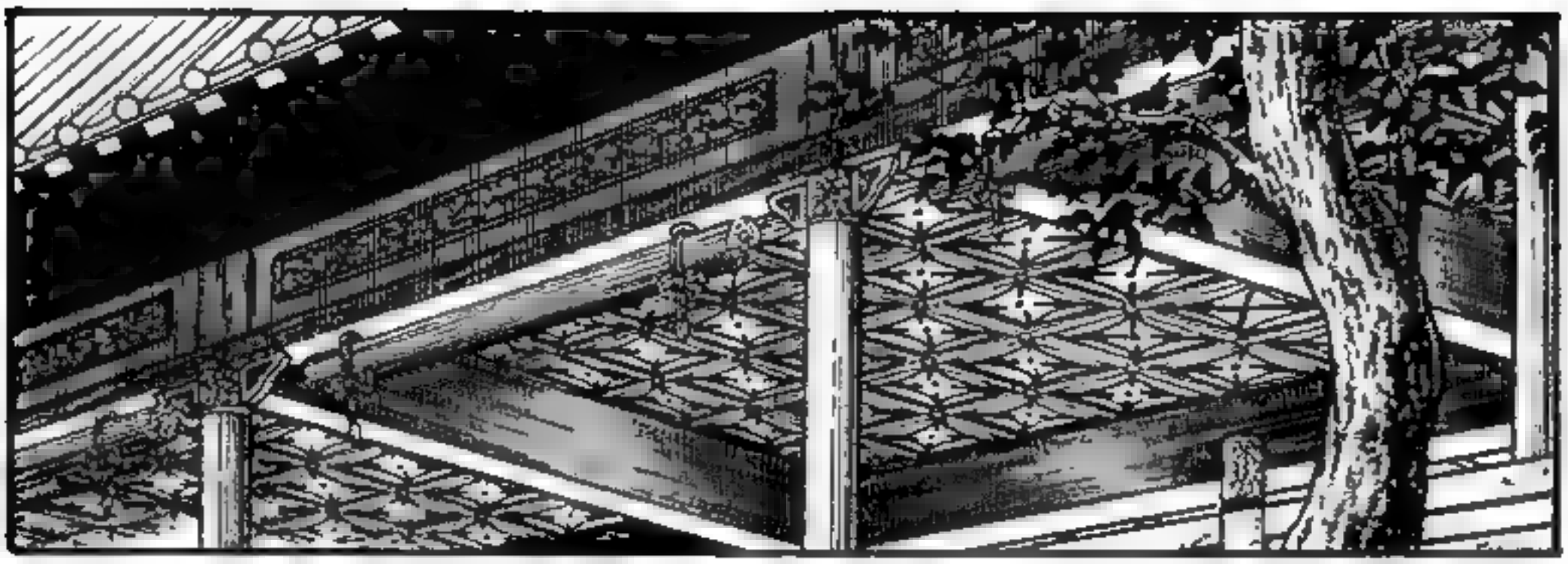
I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE WONDERFUL NEW ROBE THAT SIR HAS GIVEN ME, BUT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF THROWING MY OLD ONE AWAY.

THANK YOU FOR THE MEAL. I SHALL RETIRE BACK TO MY QUARTERS FOR TODAY.

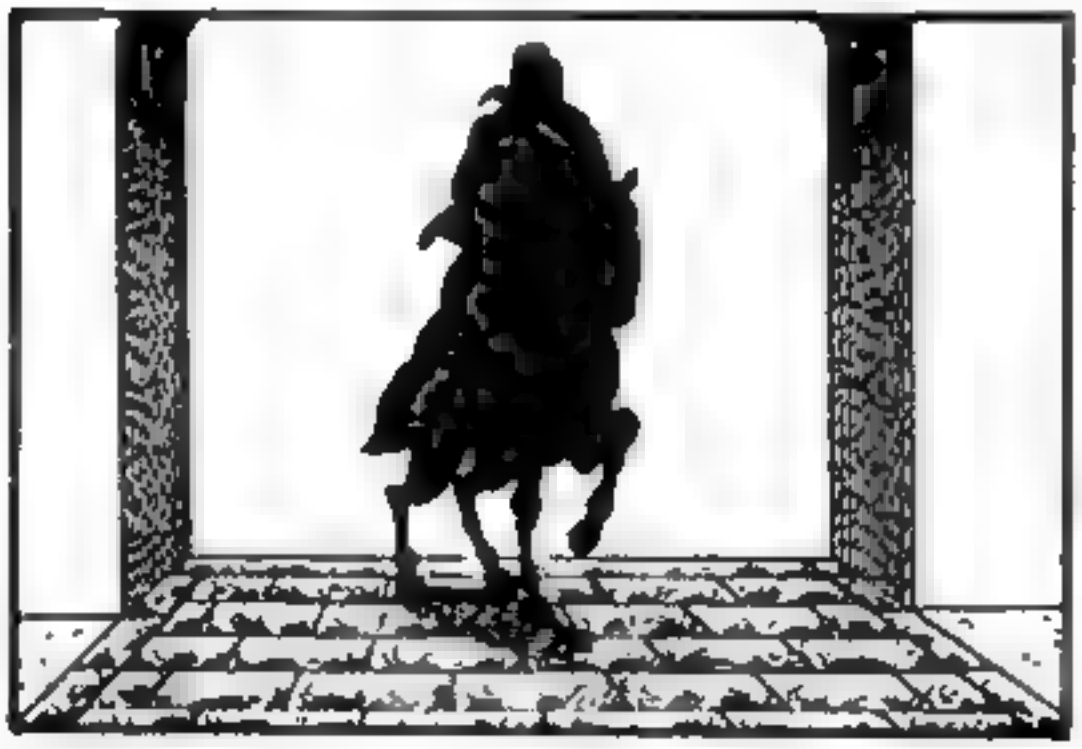
WHAT A MAN. TRULY, HE IS THE VERY EMBODIMENT OF LOYALTY AND DEVOTION.

JUST YOU WAIT, I SHALL WIN YOU OVER WITH EVEN GREATER BENEVOLENCE.

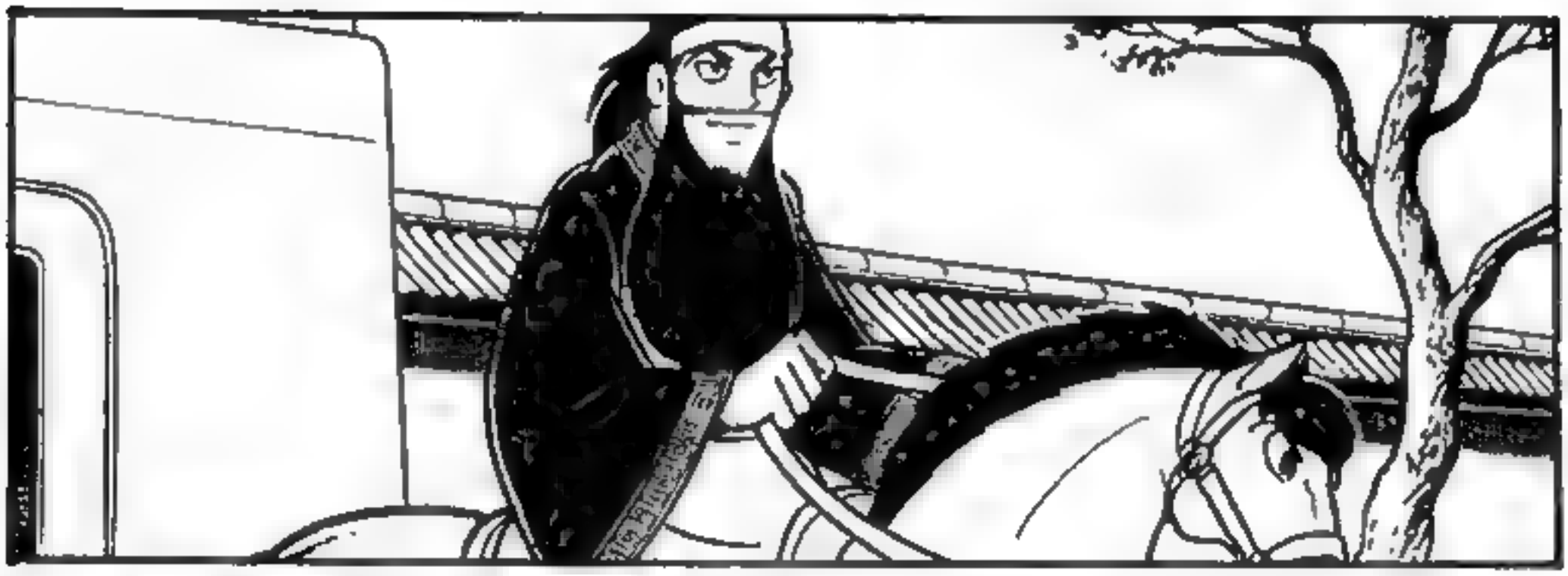
HOW BLESSED I WOULD BE IF I HAD A SUB-ORDINATE LIKE HIM...



NO, BUT HE SHOULD BE HERE ANY MOMENT NOW, CHANCELLOR.
HAS GUAN YU STILL NOT COME?



AH, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!



AH, GUAN YU. I'VE BEEN AWAITING YOU.

AFTER ALL, IS IT NOT A WARRIOR'S DUTY TO LOOK AFTER HIS STEED?
YOU REALLY SHOULD KEEP IT BETTER FED.

HMM? YOUR HORSE LOOKS RATHER THIN AND MAL-NOURISHED.

BUT I AM AFRAID THAT MY LARGE BUILD IS A LITTLE TOO MUCH FOR THIS HORSE TO HANDLE.

YES, I AM WELL AWARE OF THAT.

I BELIEVE I MAY HAVE JUST THE THING FOR YOU.

I SEE. A MAN AS BIG AS YOU WOULD NEED A MORE APPROPRIATE HORSE.

GUAN YU, MIGHT YOU HAPPEN TO RECOGNIZE THIS STEED?

IT IS INDEED A GREAT HORSE BUT IT PROVED TOO WILD FOR ANY OF MY MEN TO RIDE IT. PERHAPS IT WILL BE BETTER UNDER YOUR HANDS.

WHY, ISN'T THIS THE FAMED RED HARE OF LU BU? THE HORSE SAID TO BE ABLE TO RUN 1000 LI A DAY?

I AM INDEBTED.

SIR IS REALLY GIVING ME THE RED HARE!?

I AM ELATED BECAUSE WITH THE RED HARE, I CAN RETURN BACK TO MY LORD'S SIDE WITHIN AN INSTANT ONCE I HEAR WHERE HE MIGHT BE.

YOU ARE A MOST CURIOUS MAN. YOU SEEM TO CARE NOT FOR ALL THE GOLD AND SILVER IN THE WORLD YET A SINGLE HORSE CAN BRING SUCH JOY TO YOU.

THERE, THERE.

TO BE ABLE TO RETURN TO YOUR LORD EVEN FASTER, I SEE...

.....

AH, ZHANG LIAO.

MY LORD, YOU LOOK A LITTLE UNWELL. IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?

I GIVE HIM GOLD, AND HE GIVES THEM AWAY TO LIU BEI'S WIFE.

YES, ACTUALLY. IT IS ABOUT GUAN YU.

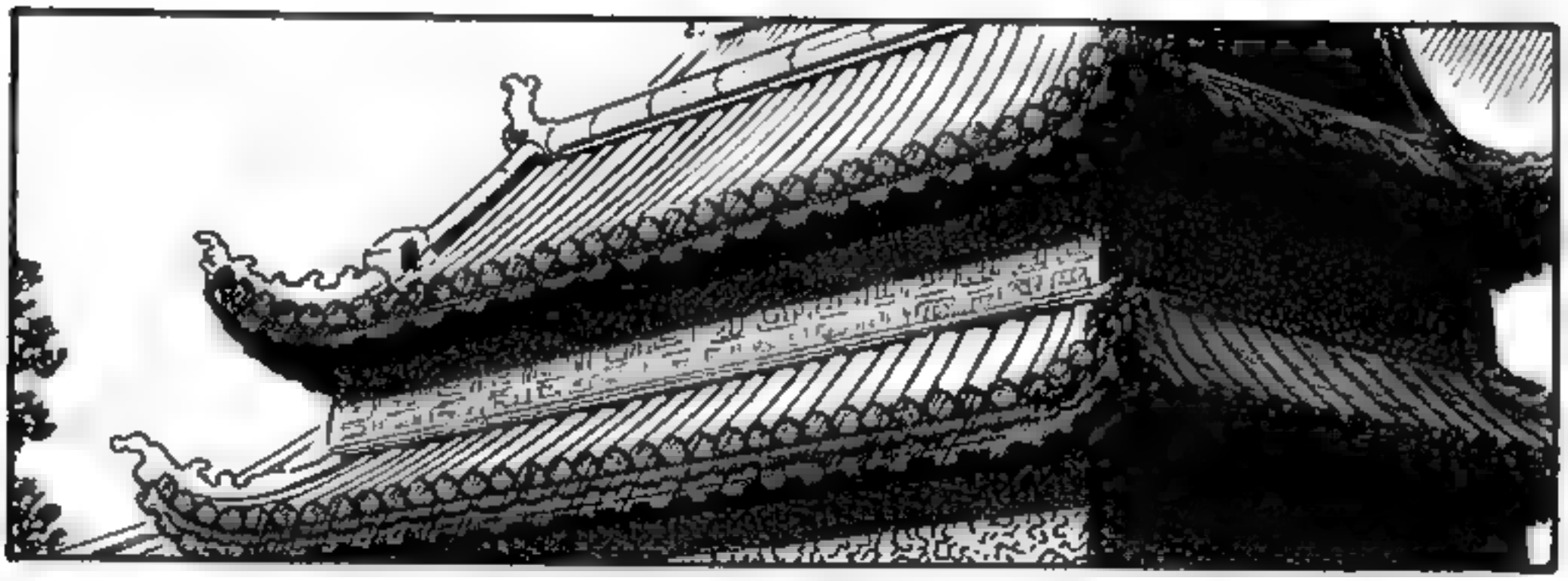
I SEE...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRY, I JUST CANNOT SEEM TO GET CLOSER TO HIS HEART.

I GIVE HIM THE RED HARE AND HE SAYS HE CAN NOW RETURN TO LIU BEI FASTER THAN EVER.

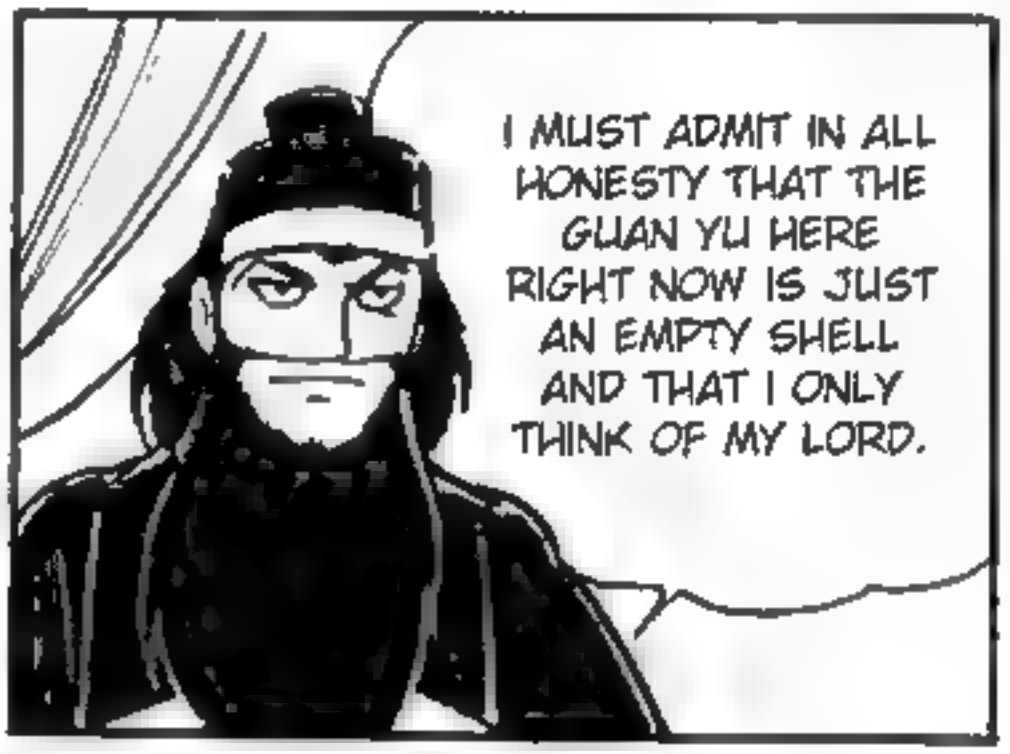
THANK YOU.

I UNDERSTAND MY LORD'S FRUSTRATIONS. I SHALL GO VISIT HIM AND INQUIRE OF HIS TRUE FEELINGS ABOUT SIR.



I SEE, SO YOU WISH TO ASK ME HOW I TRULY FEEL...

BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT YOUR LORD MAY BE DEAD ALREADY.


I MUST ADMIT IN ALL HONESTY THAT THE GUAN YU HERE RIGHT NOW IS JUST AN EMPTY SHELL AND THAT I ONLY THINK OF MY LORD.

SO YOU STILL THINK OF YOUR LORD THAT MUCH...?

IF HE HAS PASSED AWAY, THEN I SHALL FOLLOW HIM TO THE AFTER-WORLD.

YES, I KNOW. I COULD NOT BE ANY MORE THANKFUL TOWARDS HIM THAN I ALREADY AM.

BUT CHANCELLOR CAO CAO IS A MOST RESPECTABLE MAN TOO, NOT INFERIOR TO LIU BEI IN ANY WAY.

WE ARE BROTHERS THAT HAVE SWORN TO LIVE TOGETHER THROUGH GOOD TIMES AND BAD.

BUT WHEREAS MY BOND WITH CAO CAO IS MERELY ONE MADE OF MATERIAL GIFTS, I AM LINKED WITH LIU BEI BY A MUCH GREATER AND DEEPER BOND.

BUT DESPITE WHAT I HAVE SAID, I STILL RECOGNIZE THAT I OWE A GREAT DEAL TO THE CHANCELLOR.

AND THIS BOND BETWEEN HE AND I CANNOT BE BROKEN, EVEN IN DEATH.

I SEE... THANK YOU FOR BEING FRANK WITH ME.

THAT IS WHY I INTEND ON REPAYING MY DEBTS TO HIM BEFORE I RETURN TO MY LORD.

YES, MY LORD. THOUGH HE IS APPRECIATIVE OF SIR'S KINDNESS, HE SAYS THAT ONE MAN CANNOT SERVE TWO LORDS.

I SEE, SO THAT IS HOW GUAN YU FEELS.

IF ONLY HE COULD STAY BY MY SIDE FOREVER...!

'TIS A PITY BUT HOW ADMIRABLE HE IS!

WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

I MAY HAVE JUST THE PLAN FOR THAT, MY LORD.

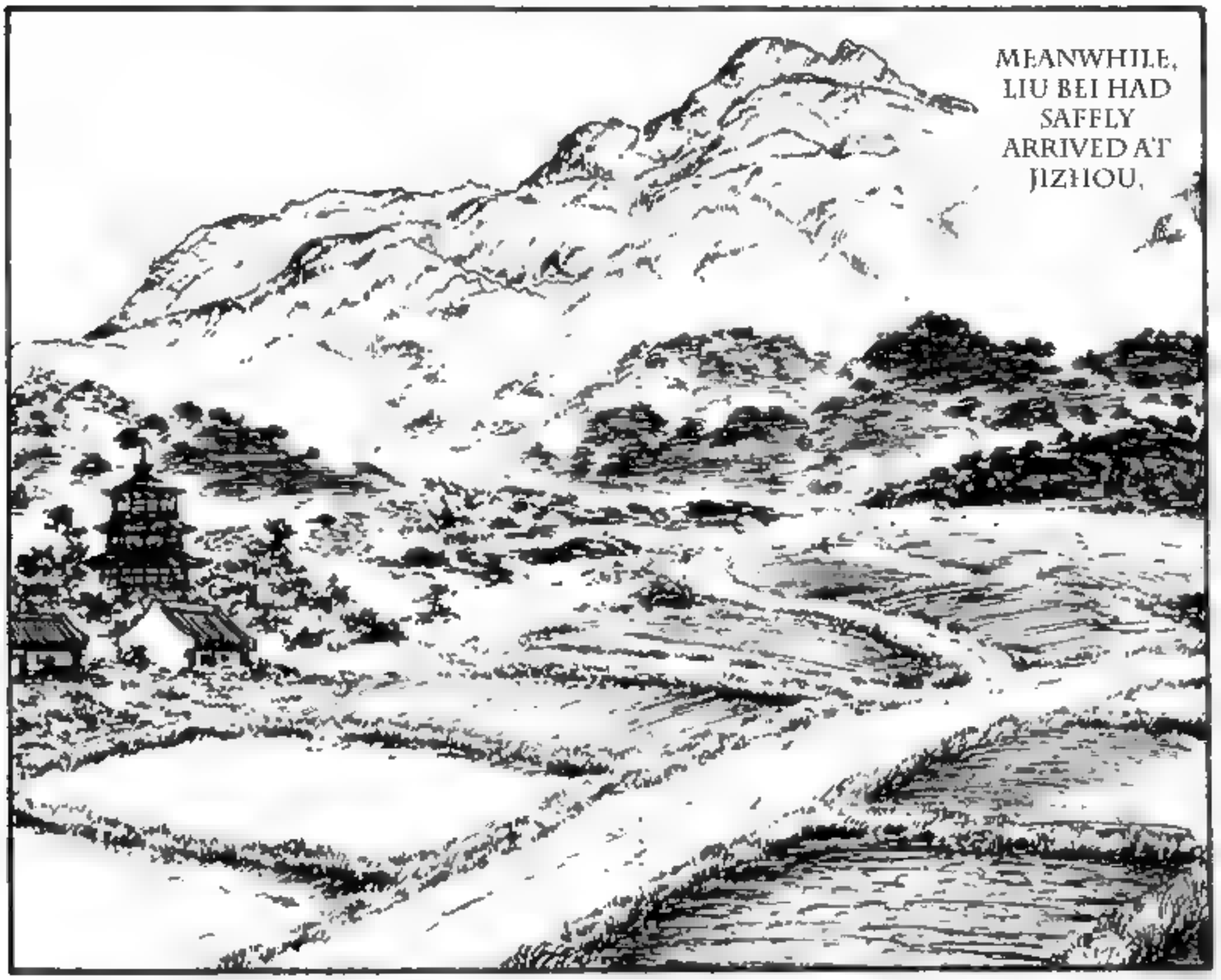
SO I SUGGEST WE PREVENT THAT FROM HAPPENING.

GUAN YU SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT HE WOULD REPAY HIS DEBT TO SIR BEFORE LEAVING.

I SEE...

IF MY LORD GIVES HIM NO OPPORTUNITY TO REPAY HIS DEBTS, THEN HE SHALL REMAIN FOREVER BY SIR'S SIDE.

FIELDS OF BAIMA



BUT MY ADVISOR TIAN FENG IS VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED TO THE IDEA.

AND WHY IS THAT?

NOW THAT MY SON HAS RECOVERED AND THE WEATHER IS FAIR, I BELIEVE NOW WOULD BE THE IDEAL TIME TO ATTACK CAO CAO ONCE AGAIN.

HE BELIEVES THAT NOW IS THE TIME TO BUILD, NOT TO ATTACK. HE THINKS IT WOULD BE BEST TO WAIT 2-3 YEARS AS THE GRANARIES ARE STOCKED UP, AND MORE SOLDIERS ARE RECRUITED AND TRAINED.

WHY?

BUT I AM INCLINED TO DISAGREE.

THAT'S QUITE A SAFE IDEA.

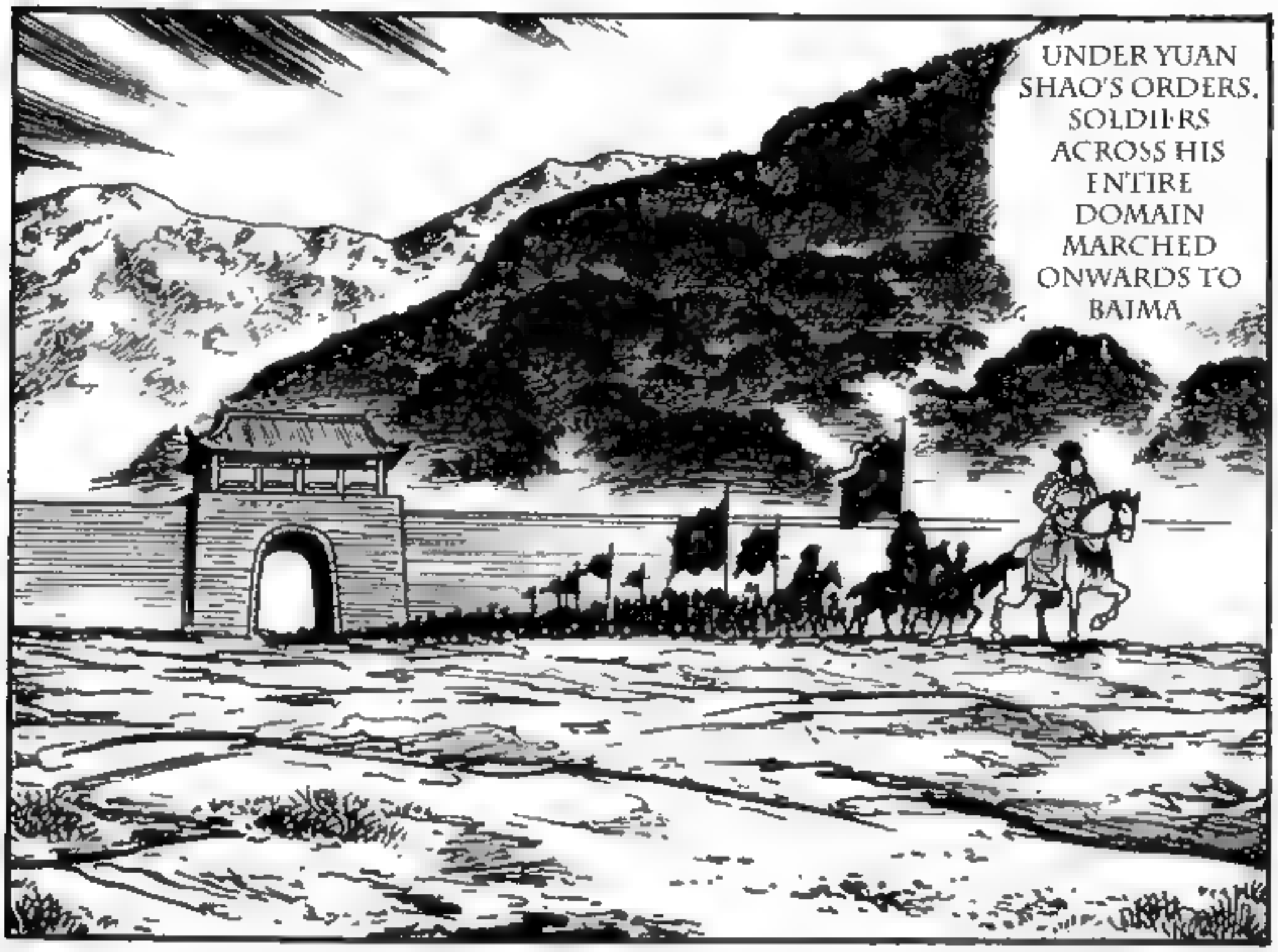
I SEE, YOU BRING UP A GOOD POINT.

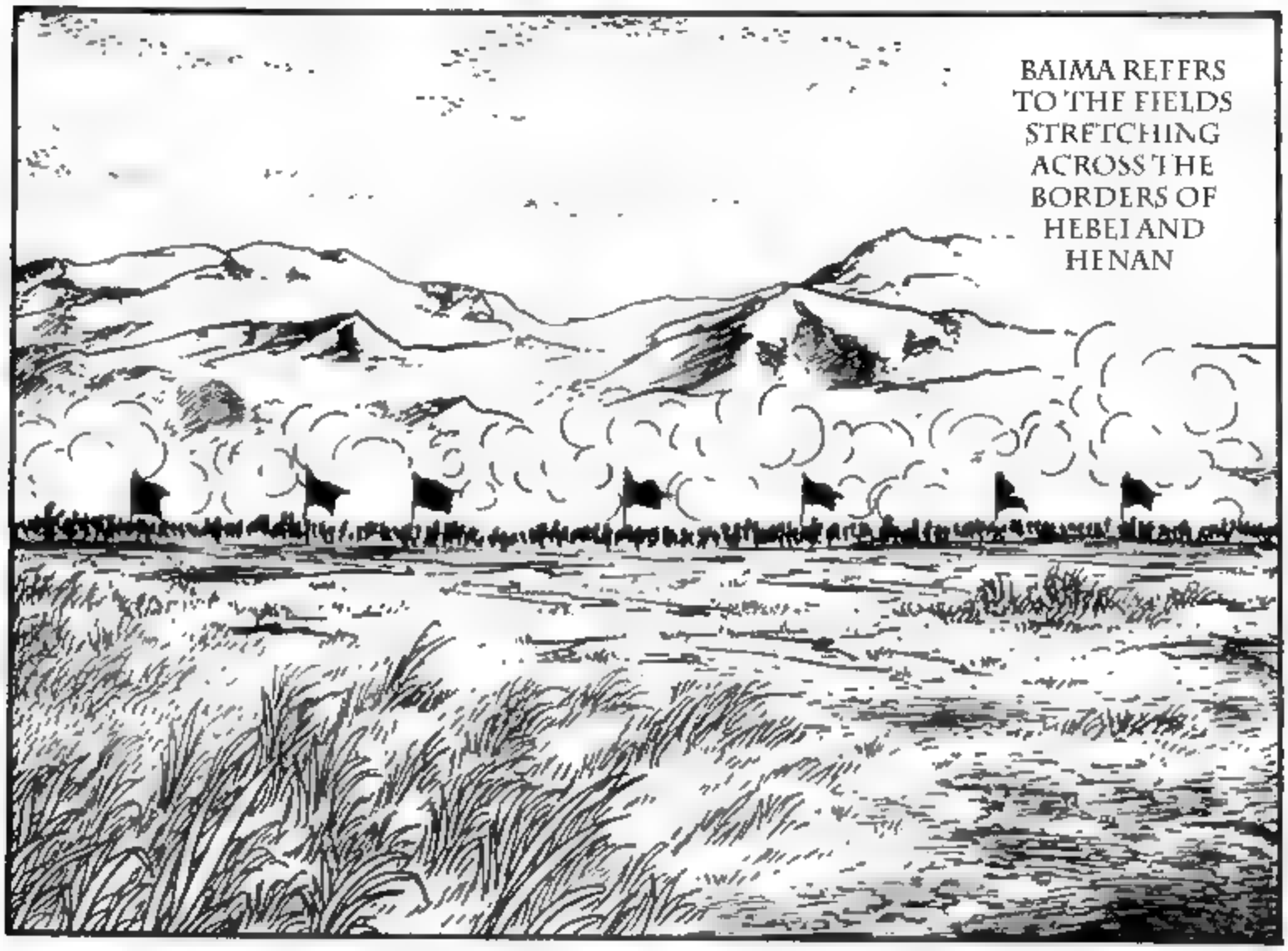
WAITING WILL ALLOW NOT ONLY OUR STRENGTH TO GROW, BUT CAO CAO'S AS WELL. MOREOVER, AFTER THE RECENT EXECUTION OF 700 PEOPLE INCLUDING THE STATE MINISTER DONG CHENG, CAO CAO HAS LOST THE PEOPLE'S HEARTS MORE THAN EVER. NOW IS CLEARLY THE BEST TIME TO STRIKE.

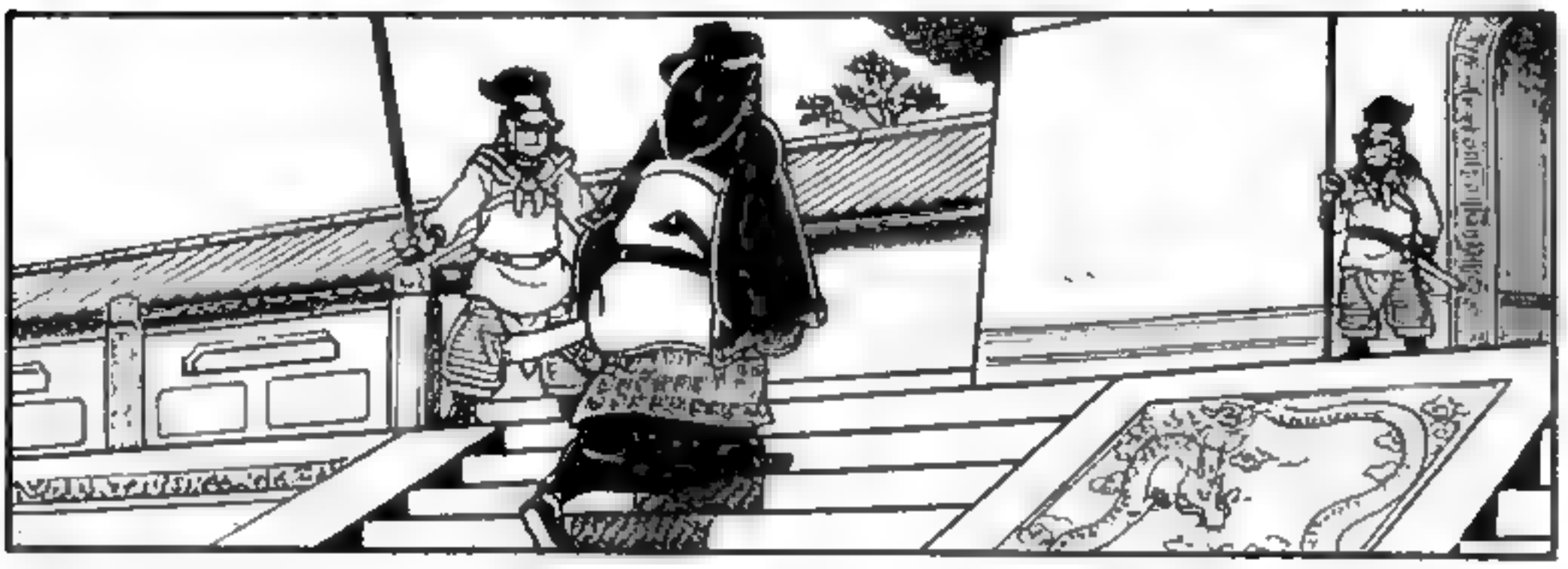
YES, MY LORD.

CALL UP EVERY GENERAL AND TELL THEM TO ASSEMBLE OUR ARMY IN THE FIELDS OF BAIMA!

ALRIGHT. WAR, IT IS THEN!


UNDER YUAN SHAO'S ORDERS, SOLDIERS ACROSS HIS ENTIRE DOMAIN MARCHED ONWARDS TO BAIMA


BAIMA REFERS TO THE FIELDS STRETCHING ACROSS THE BORDERS OF HEBEI AND HENAN



YES, THE CHANCEL-LOR IS TALKING WITH THE OTHER GENERALS AT THE MOMENT.

IS THE CHANCELLOR PRESENT?

AH, GUAN YU. WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

GOOD DAY, CHANCELLOR.

YES, THEY HAVE GATHERED IN BAIMA AND SO WE ARE OFF TO MEET THEM HEAD-ON.

I HAD HEARD THAT YUAN SHAO'S ARMY WAS ON THE MOVE.

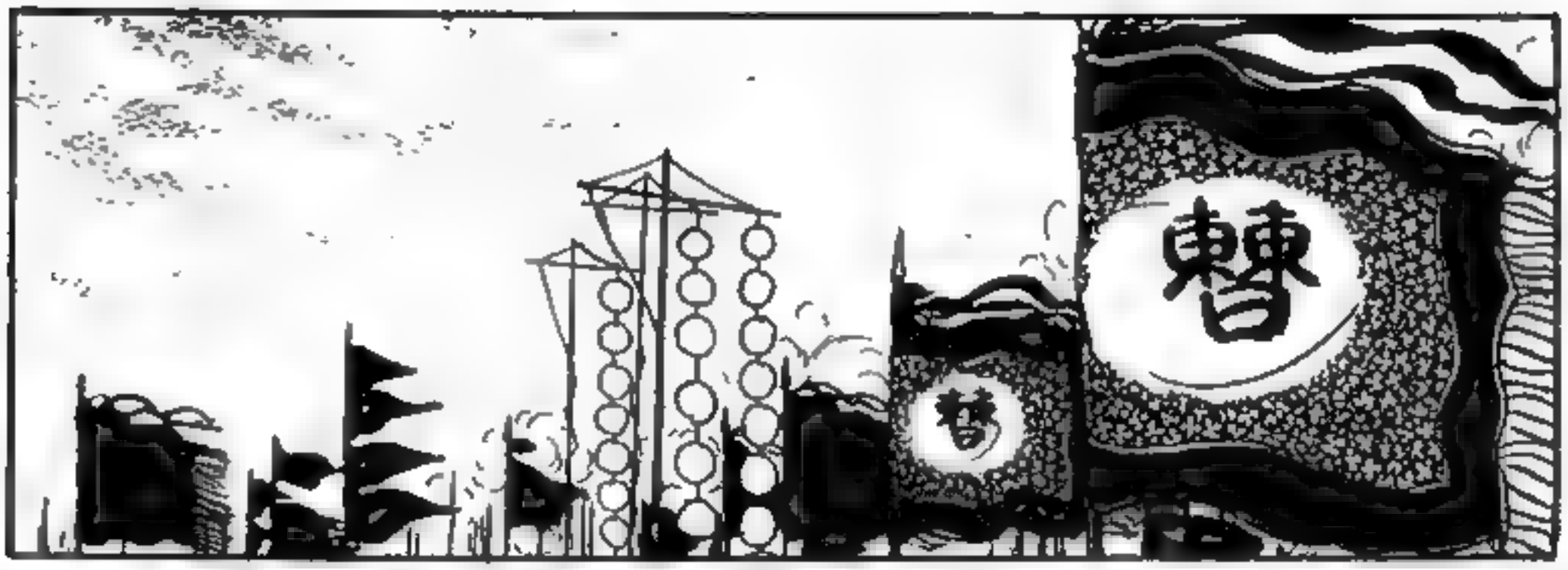
I WAS ACTUALLY THINKING OF PARTICIPATING IN THE BATTLE MYSELF TO REPAY ALL THAT SIR HAS DONE FOR ME.

HAHA, I APPRECIATE THE OFFER BUT THIS IS MERELY A SMALL TRIFLE THAT NEED NOT DESERVE YOUR ATTENTION.

AS YOU WISH, CHANCELLOR.

I SHALL CALL UPON YOUR HELP FOR A MORE IMPORTANT MATTER IN THE FUTURE.

LET US HEAD OUT THEN!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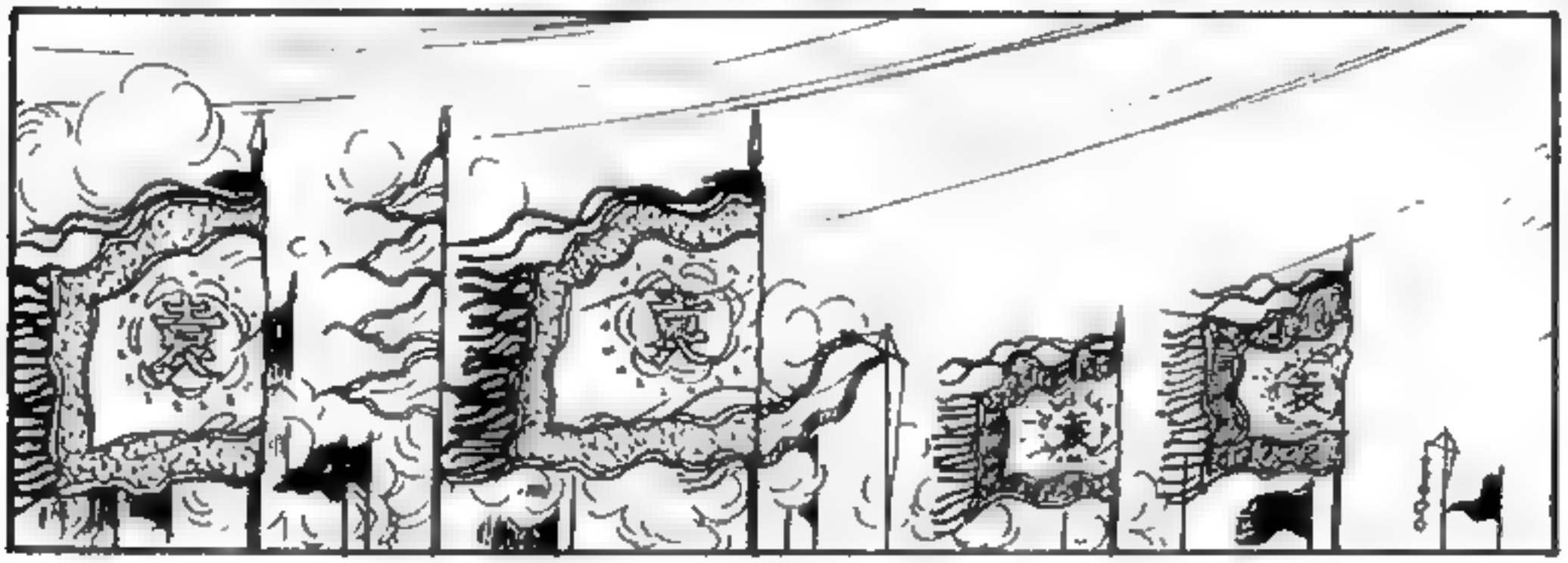

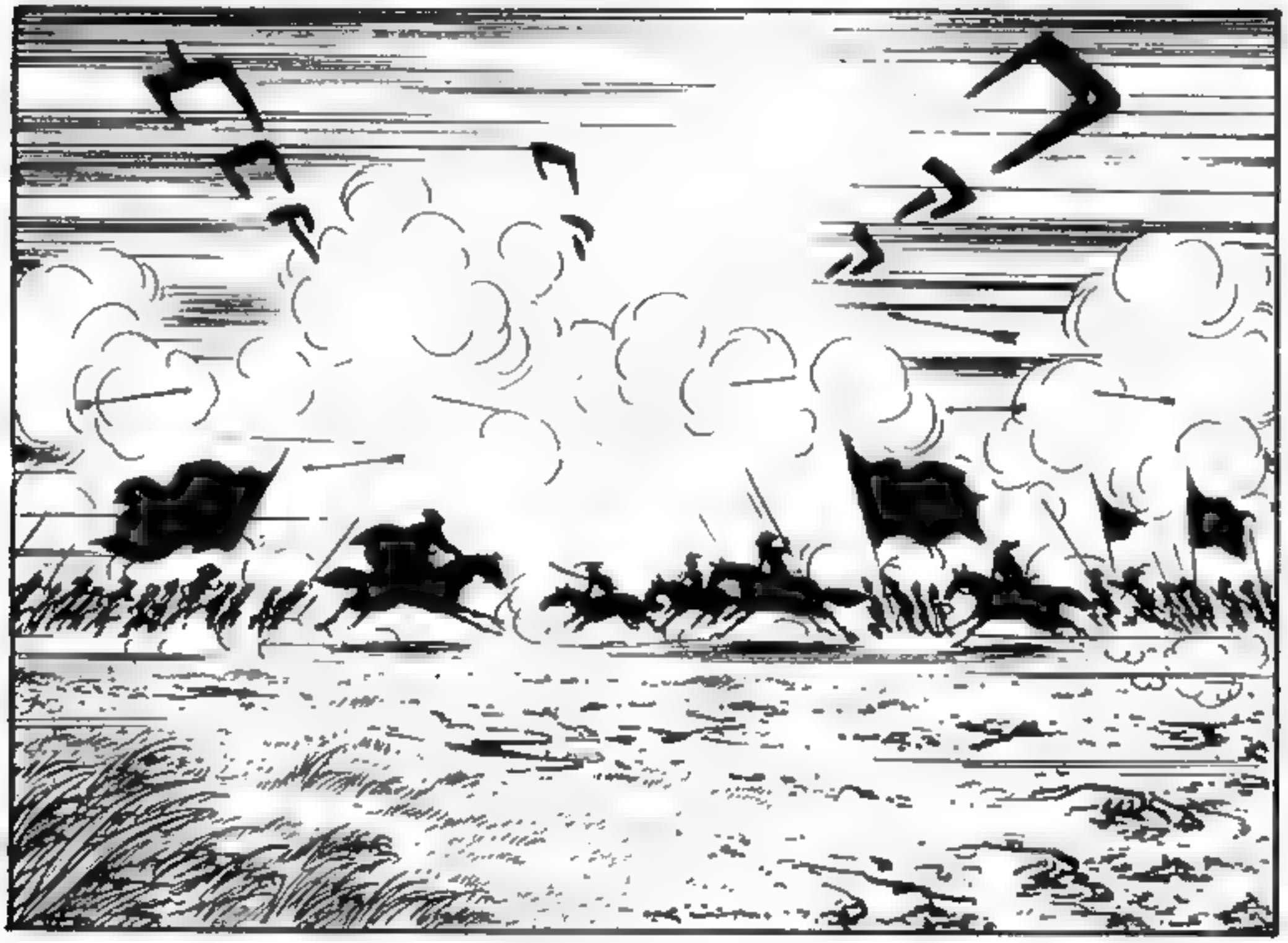

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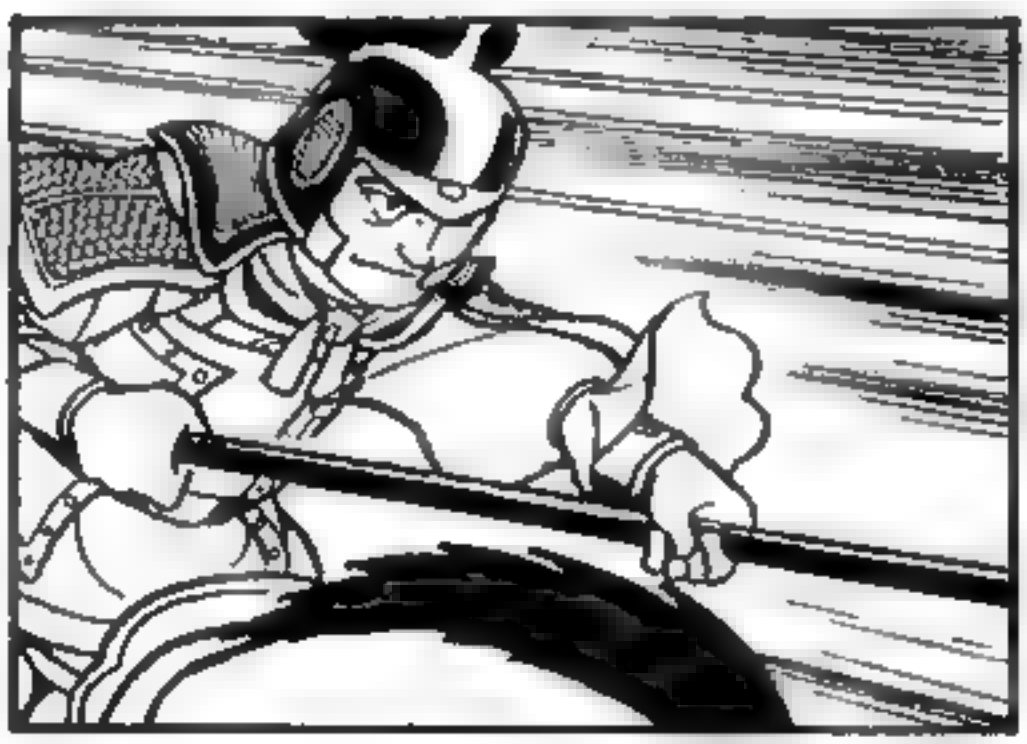
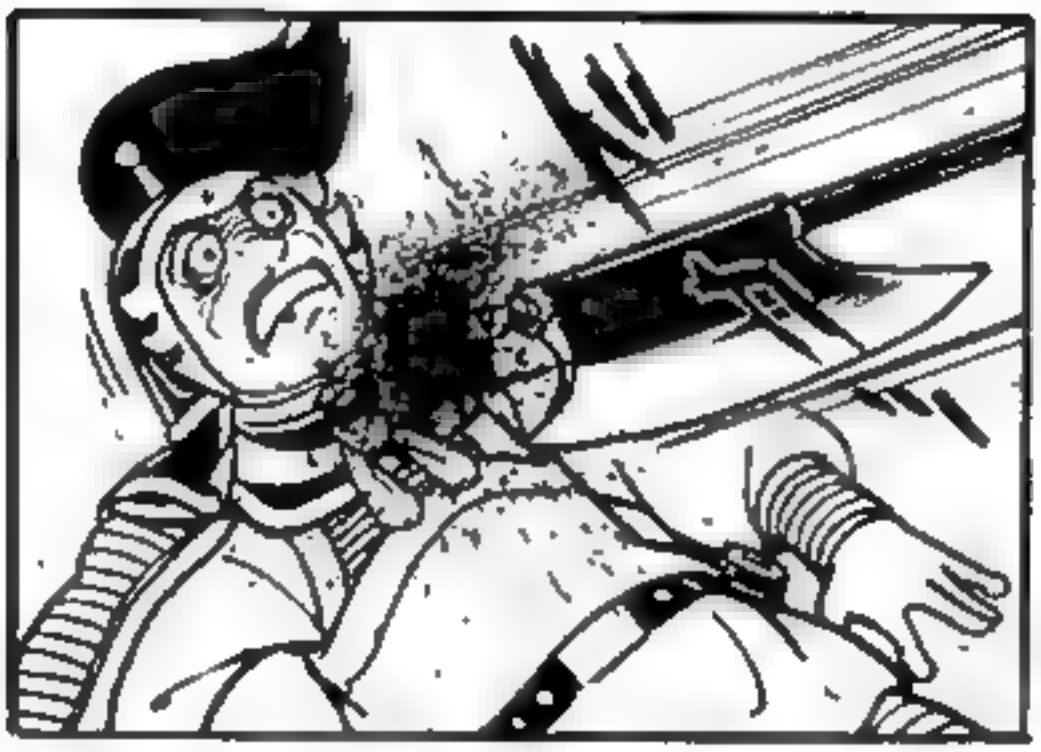
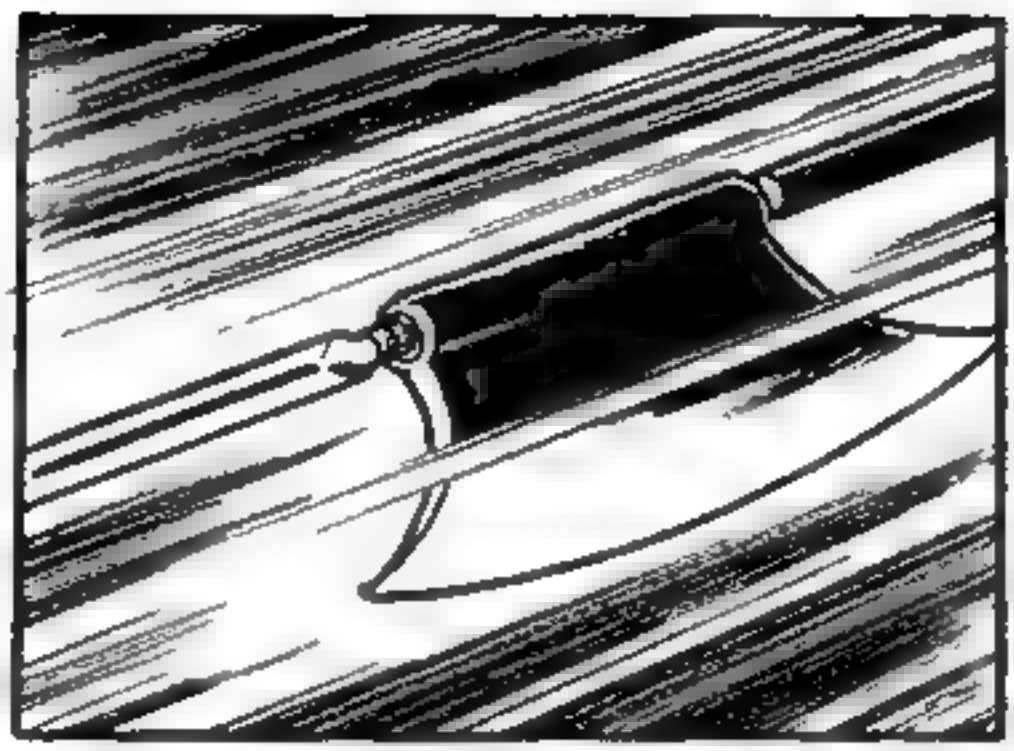






HE IS YAN LIANG, ONE OF YUAN SHAO'S MOST FAMOUS GENERALS.

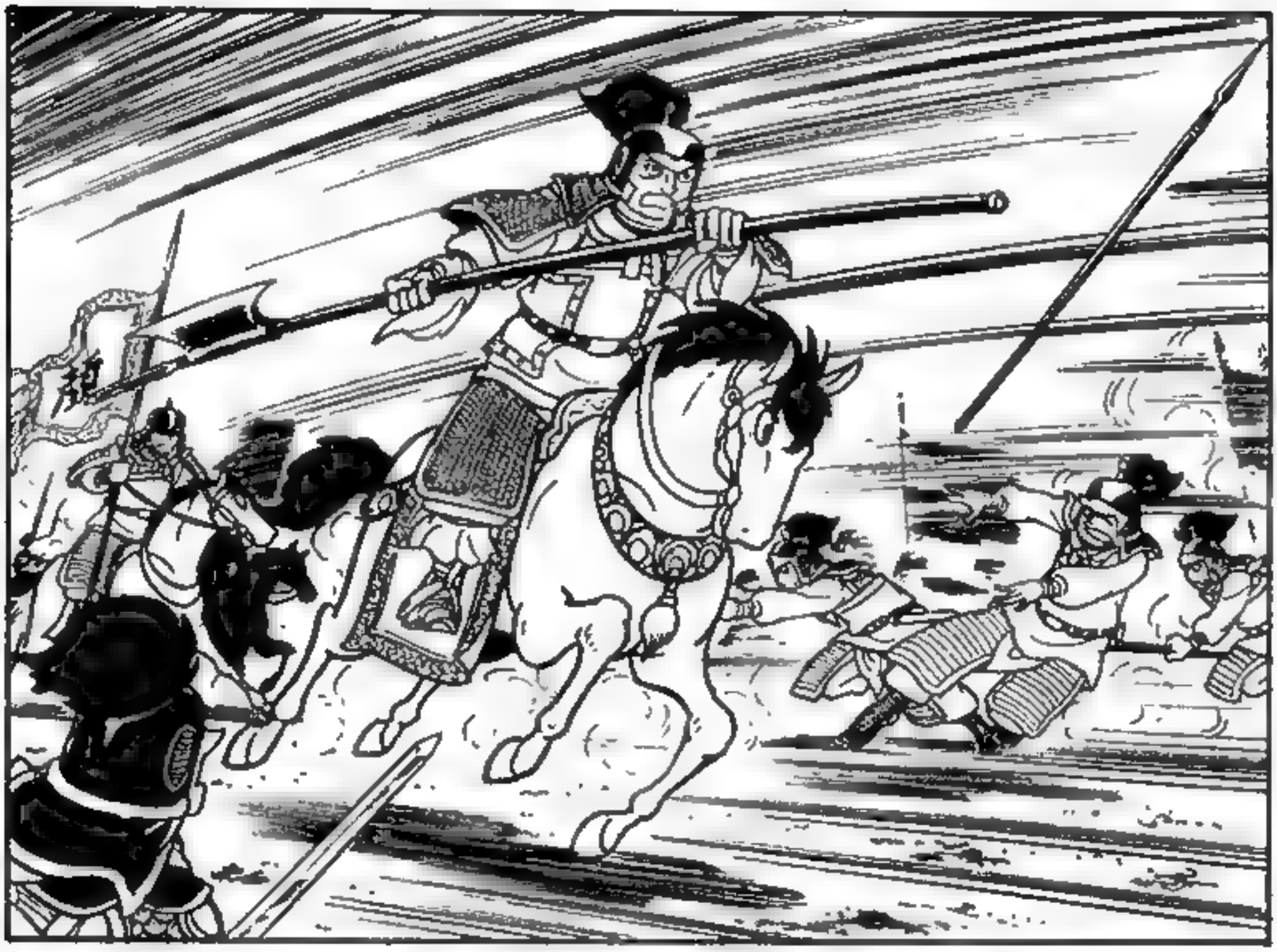
JUST WHO IS THAT MAN WHO SINGLE-HANDEDLY THREATENS MY ENTIRE ARMY?

ALLOW ME, SIR.

AT THIS RATE, WE WON'T HAVE A SINGLE SOLDIER LEFT ALIVE! ISN'T THERE ANYONE THAT CAN HANDLE HIM?

YES, SIR!

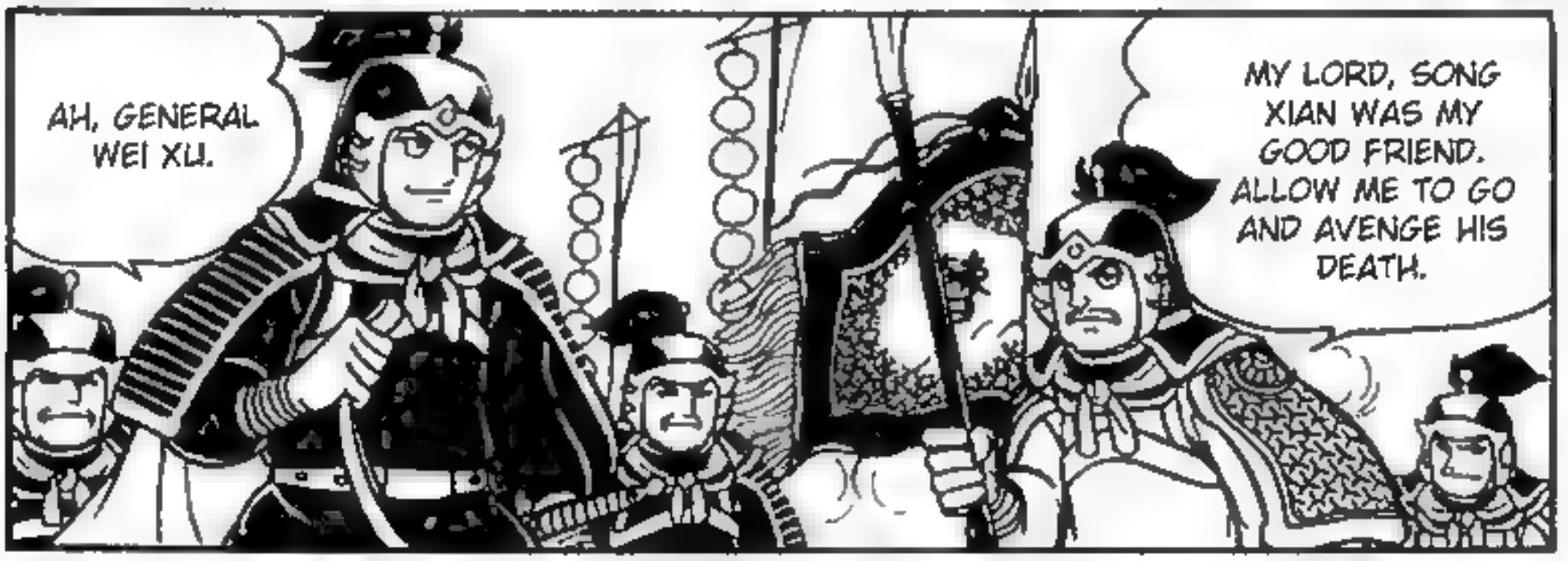
SUCCEED AND I SHALL REWARD YOU GREATLY.

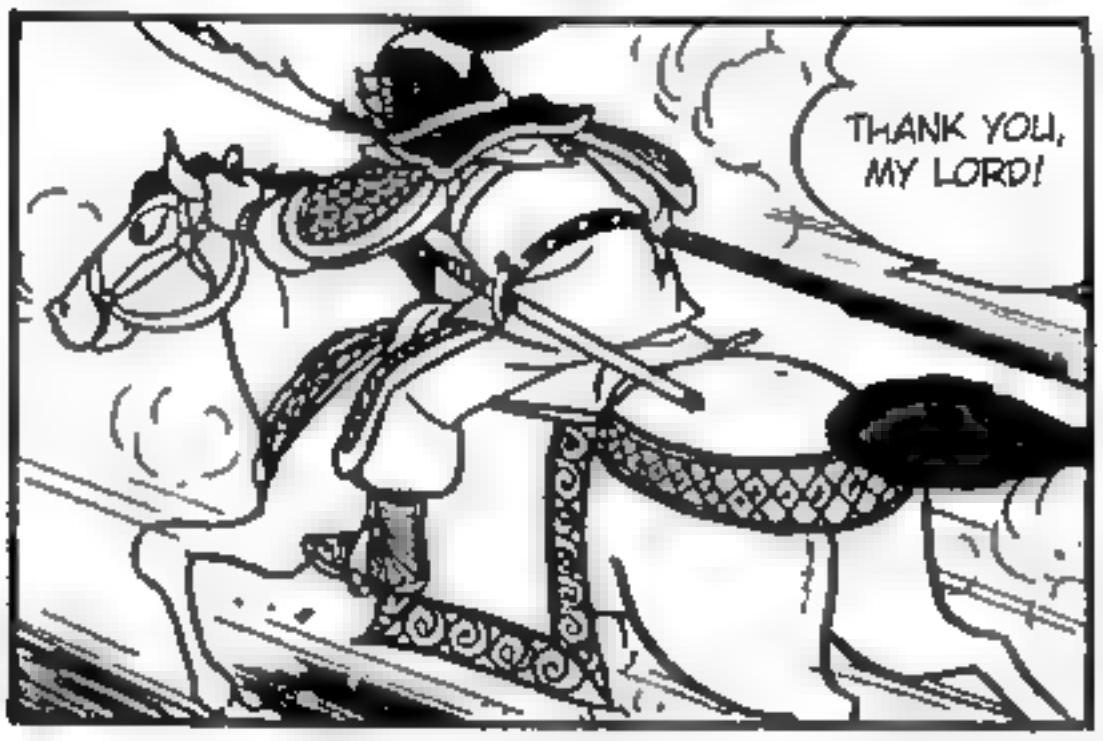


STOP RIGHT THERE, YAN LIANG! THIS SONG XIAN SHALL BE YOUR MATCH TODAY!

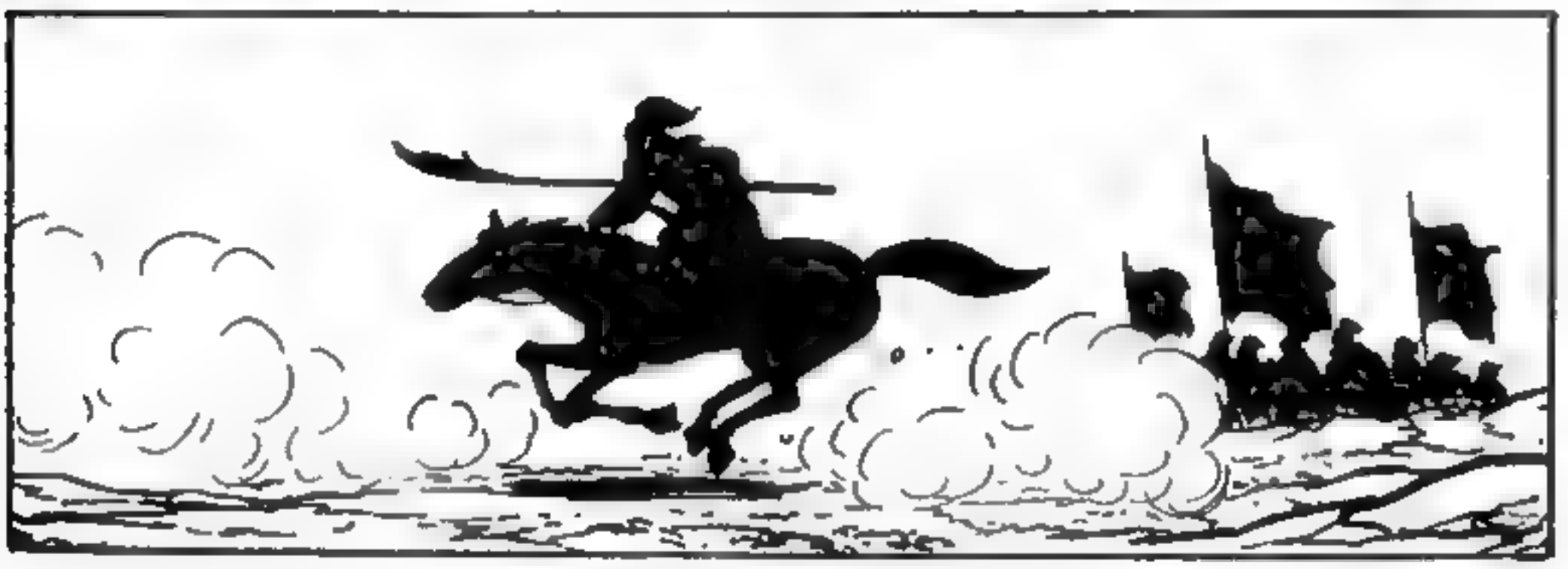
WHAT POWER AND SPEED...

AGHH!

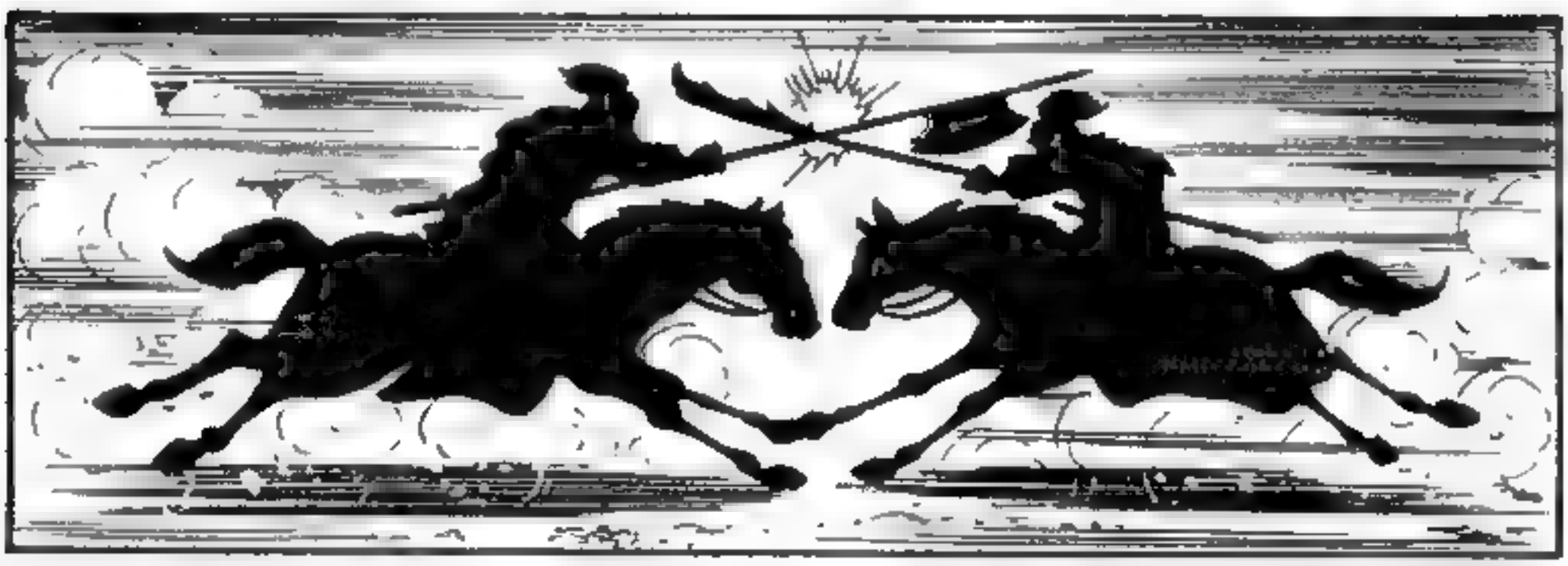

AH, GENERAL WEI XU.
MY LORD, SONG XIAN WAS MY GOOD FRIEND. ALLOW ME TO GO AND AVENGE HIS DEATH.

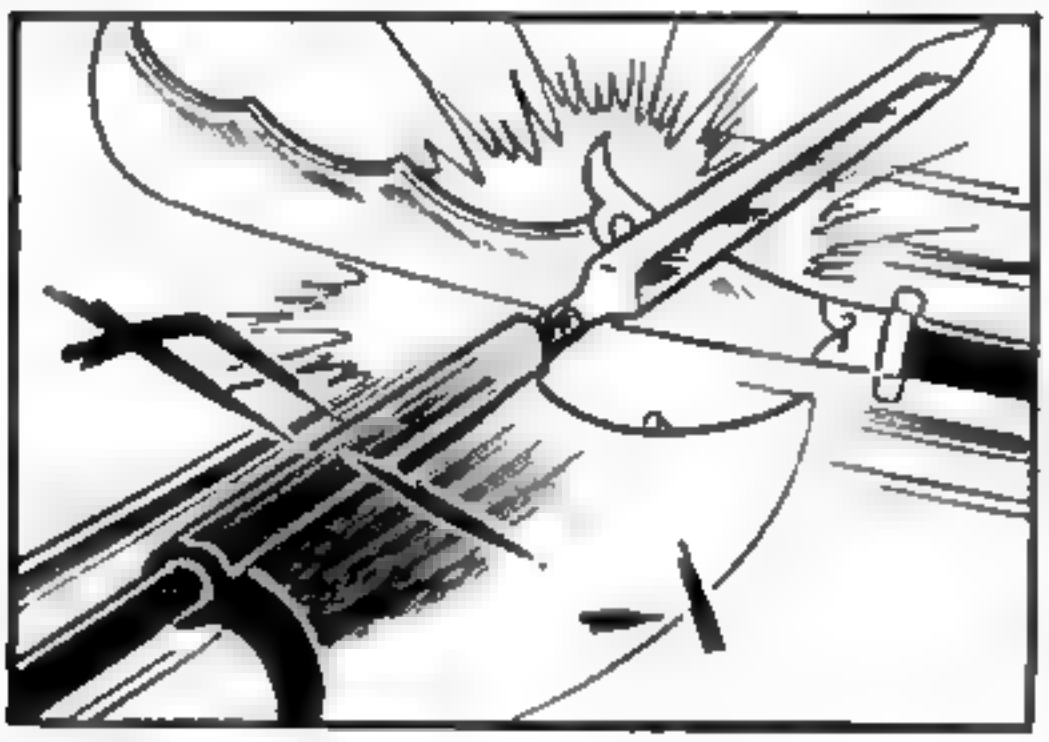

THANK YOU, MY LORD!

PERMIS-SION GRANTED.



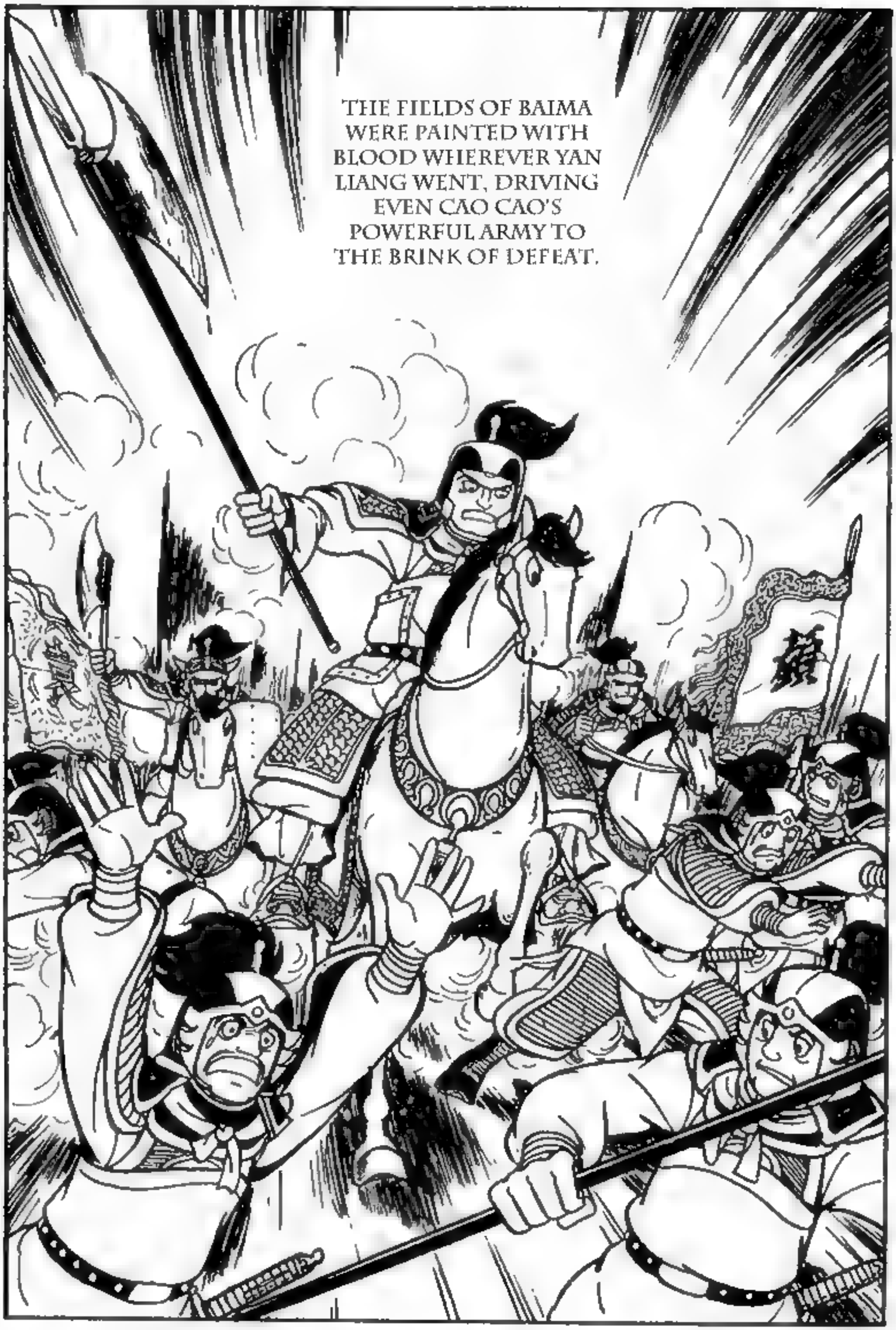
YAN LIANG! I SHALL TAKE YOUR HEAD TO AVENGE SONG XIAN'S DEATH!





AGHHH!

ACK!


THE FIELDS OF BAIMA WERE PAINTED WITH BLOOD WHEREVER YAN LIANG WENT, DRIVING EVEN CAO CAO'S POWERFUL ARMY TO THE BRINK OF DEFEAT.

OUR SOLDIERS ARE ALL OVERCOME WITH FEAR, MY LORD.

TO THINK ONE MAN COULD INFLICT SO MUCH DAMAGE...

YES, THIS IS QUITE THE PREDICAMENT...

WITH SUCH LOW MORALE, THEY ARE SURE TO FLEE IN PANIC THE MOMENT THEY SEE YAN LIANG AGAIN IN BATTLE TOMORROW.

MY LORD, GUAN YU IS THE ONLY MAN CAPABLE OF TAKING ON THAT MONSTER.

MOREOVER, MY LORD COULD ALWAYS BESTOW EVEN MORE GIFTS TO MAKE HIM REMAIN IN SIR'S DEBT.

I UNDERSTAND MY LORD'S HESITANCE BUT AREN'T SITUATIONS LIKE THIS WHY SIR WISHES TO EVEN HAVE HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE?

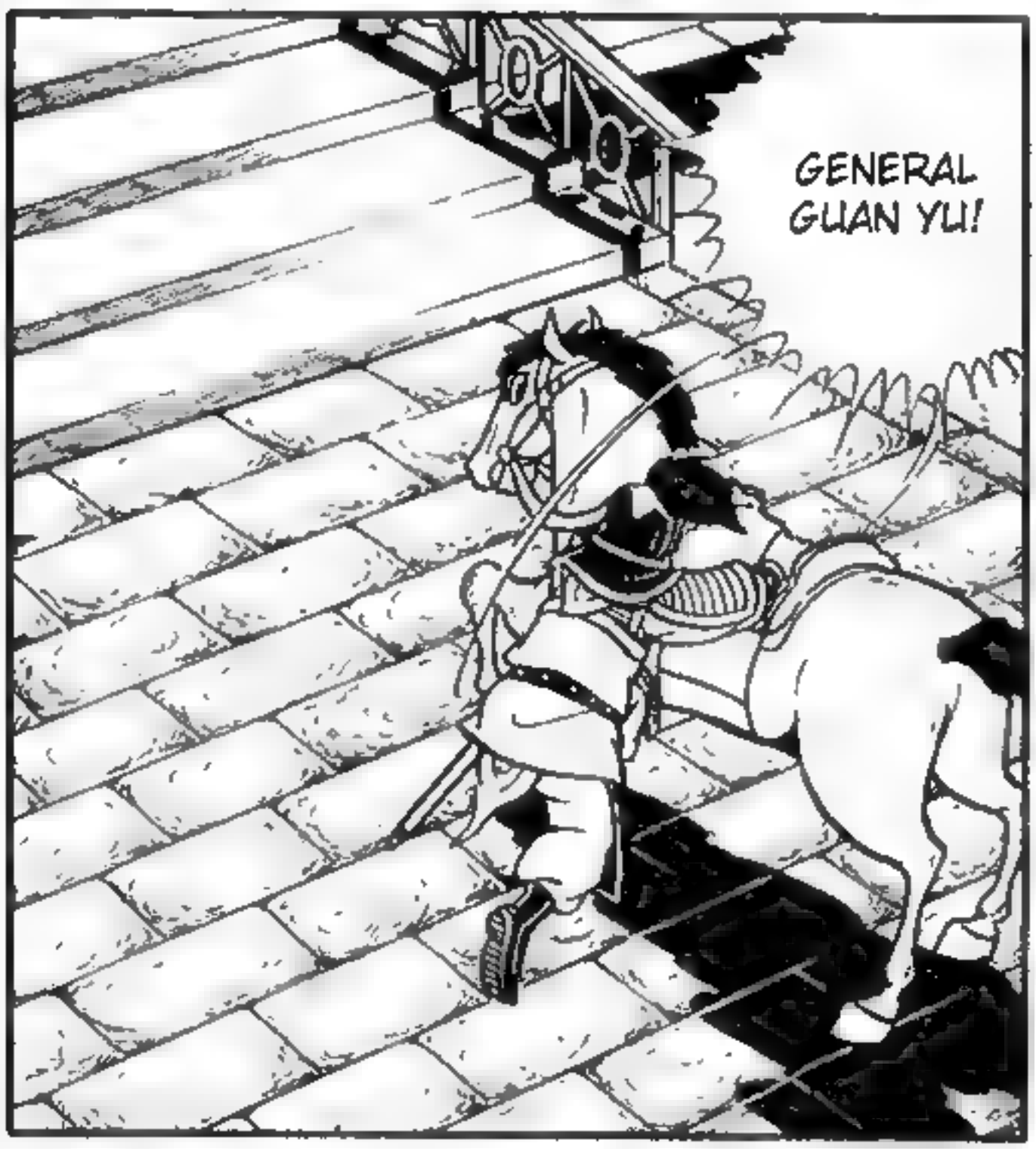
YES, I THOUGHT OF ASKING GUAN YU AS WELL BUT...

I SEE... YOU'RE RIGHT, I SHOULD NOT BE SO STUBBORN AS TO WASTE SUCH TALENT WHILE I STILL HAVE HIM.

AND SHOULD HE HAPPEN TO LOSE TO YAN LIANG, THEN THAT IS ONE LESS REASON TO WORRY ABOUT LIU BEI...

YES, MY LORD.

CALL GUAN YU UP TO THE FRONTLINES IMMEDIATELY.


GENERAL GUAN YU!

WHAT IS IT?

ALRIGHT, WAIT JUST A MOMENT WHILE I DON MY ARMOUR.

OH? SO HE CHANGED HIS MIND?

THE CHANCELLOR REQUESTS FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE AT THE FRONTLINES RIGHT AWAY.

YES, MILADY.

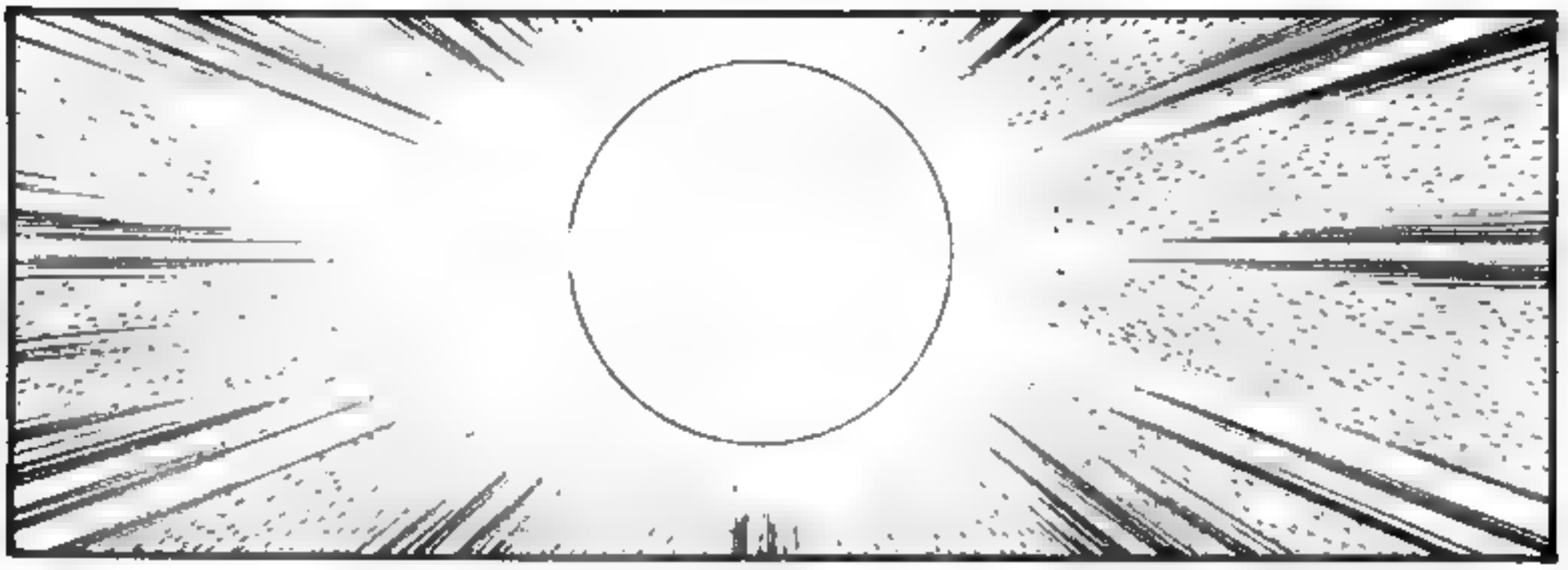
GENERAL, I HEARD THAT CAO CAO HAS CALLED YOU OUT TO BATTLE! IS THIS TRUE?

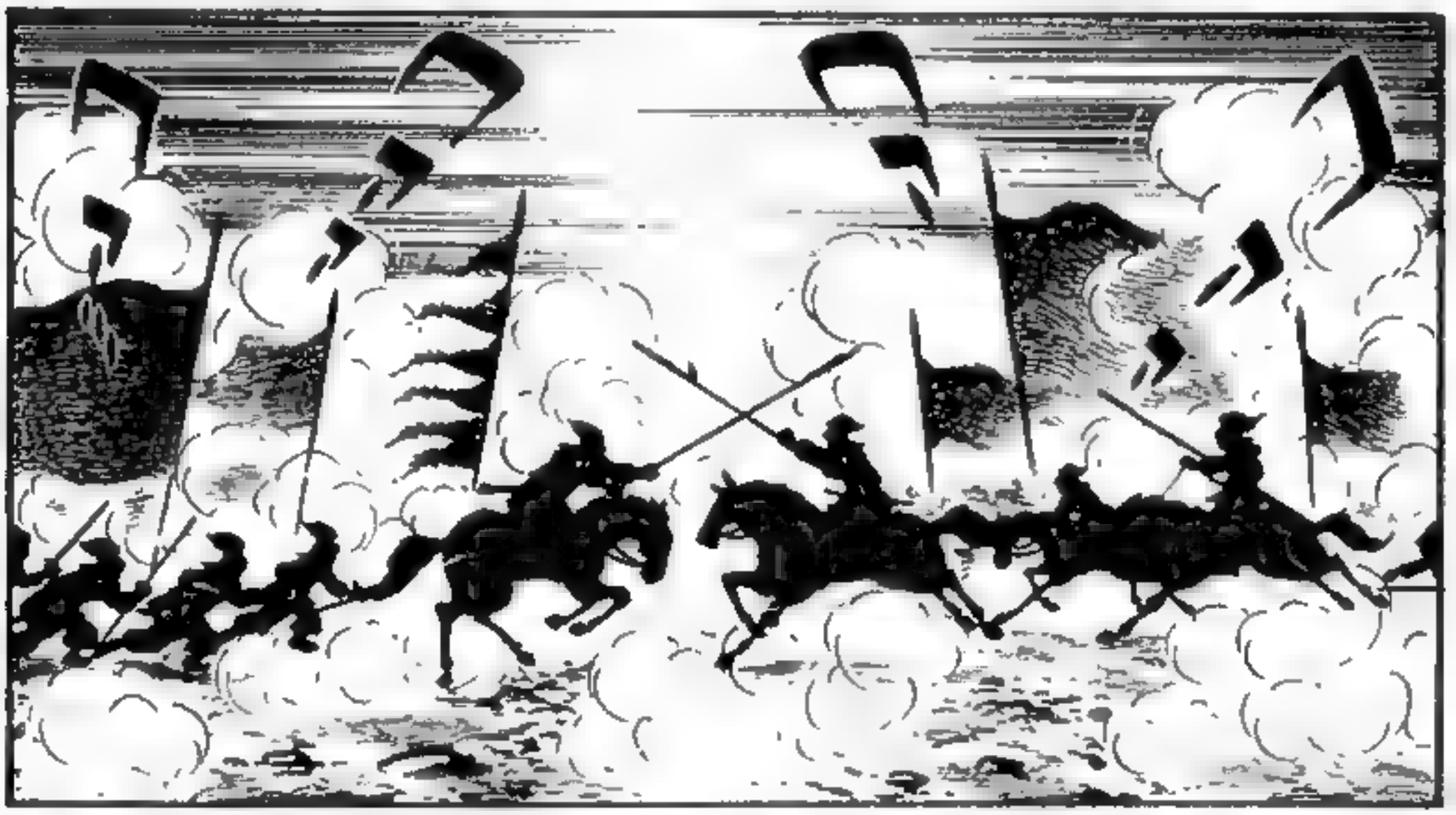
WORRY NOT, MILADY. YOU HAVE MY WORD THAT I SHAN'T DIE UNTIL YOU ARE TOGETHER WITH MY LORD AGAIN.

WHAT WOULD BECOME OF ME IF YOU WERE TO PASS AWAY IN BATTLE...?

PLEASE TAKE CARE.

THEN I SHALL TAKE MY LEAVE.





IT'S YAN LIANG!

RUN FOR IT!

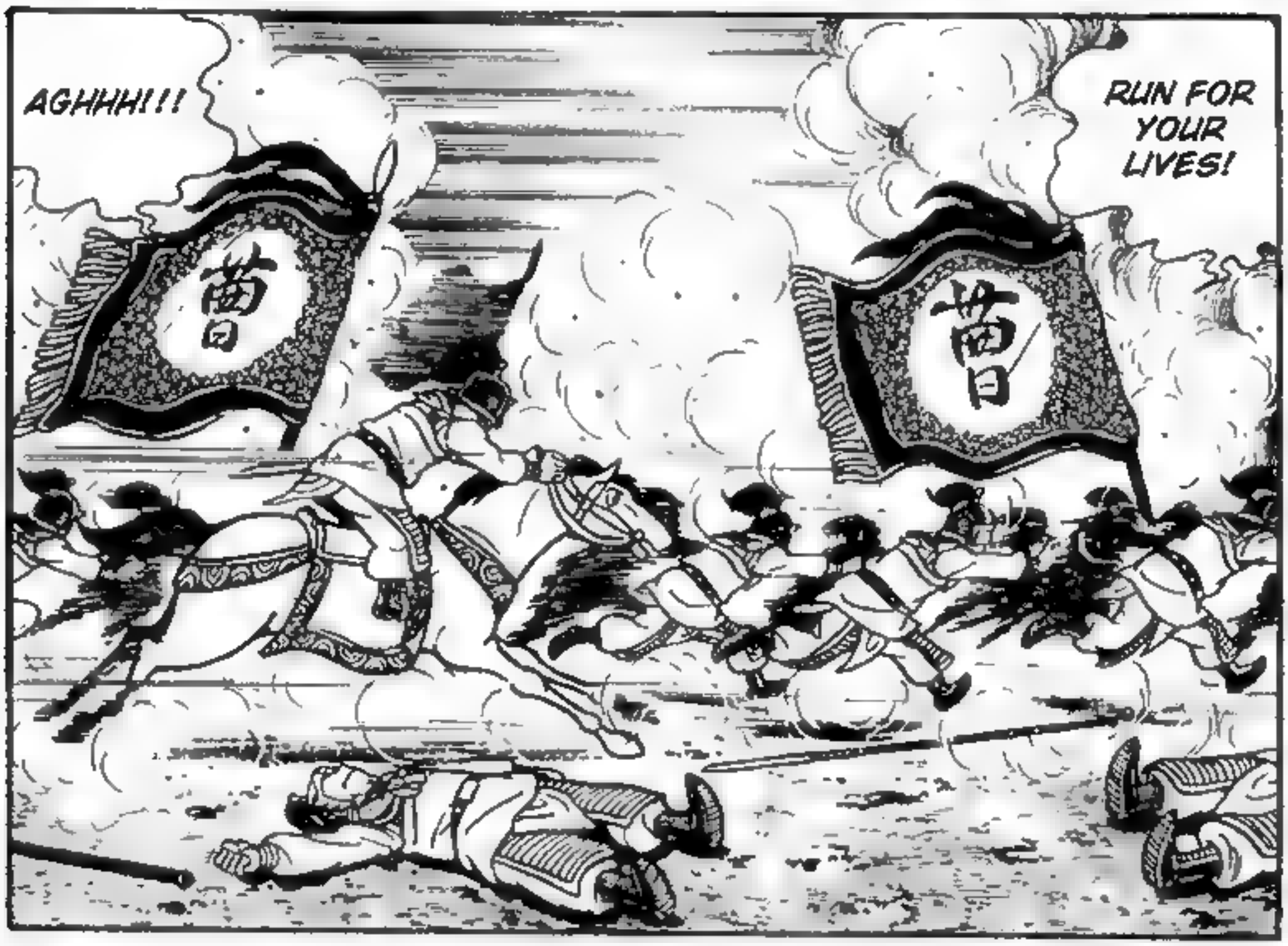
PERHAPS THEIR GENERALS SHOULD SHOW THEM HOW INSTEAD OF MERELY YELLING.

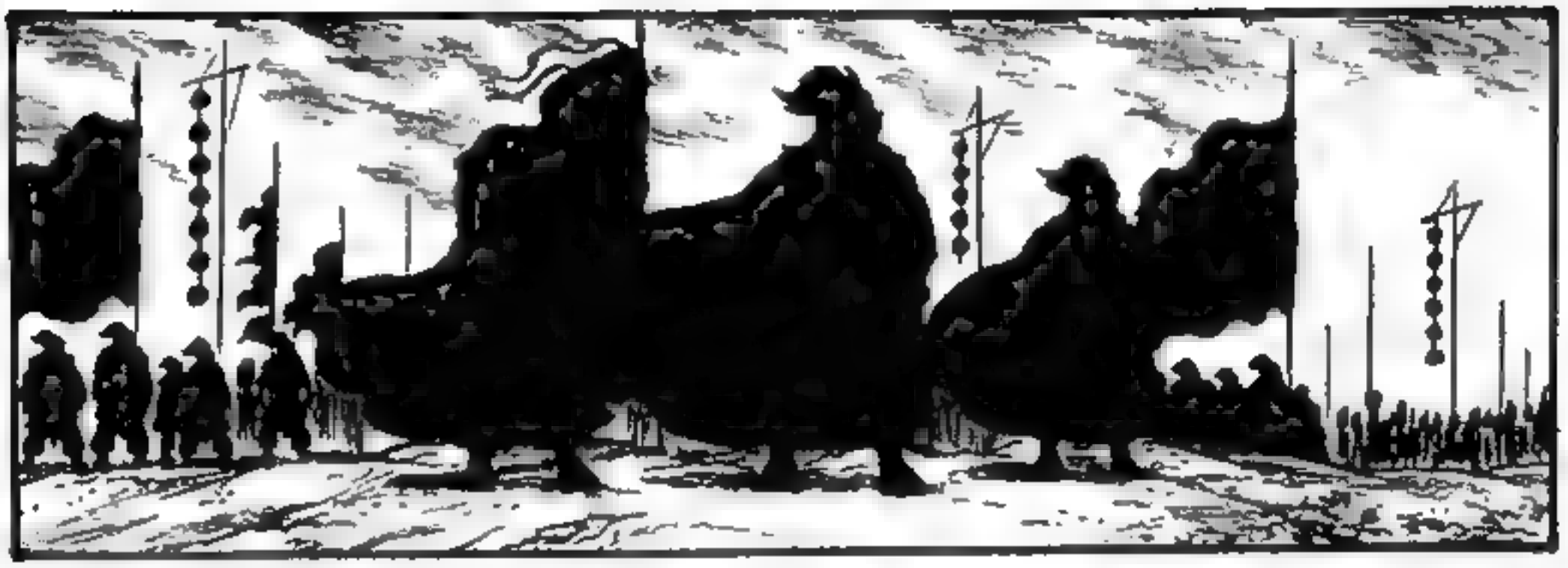
YOU CALL YOURSELVES MEN!? STAND YOUR GROUND AND FIGHT!

WHY YOU...!

AHH!

KILLED IN A SINGLE BLOW...!


AGHHH!!
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!



WHAT USE IS STRATEGY AND TACTICS IF MY SOLDIERS CAN ONLY RUN AWAY?

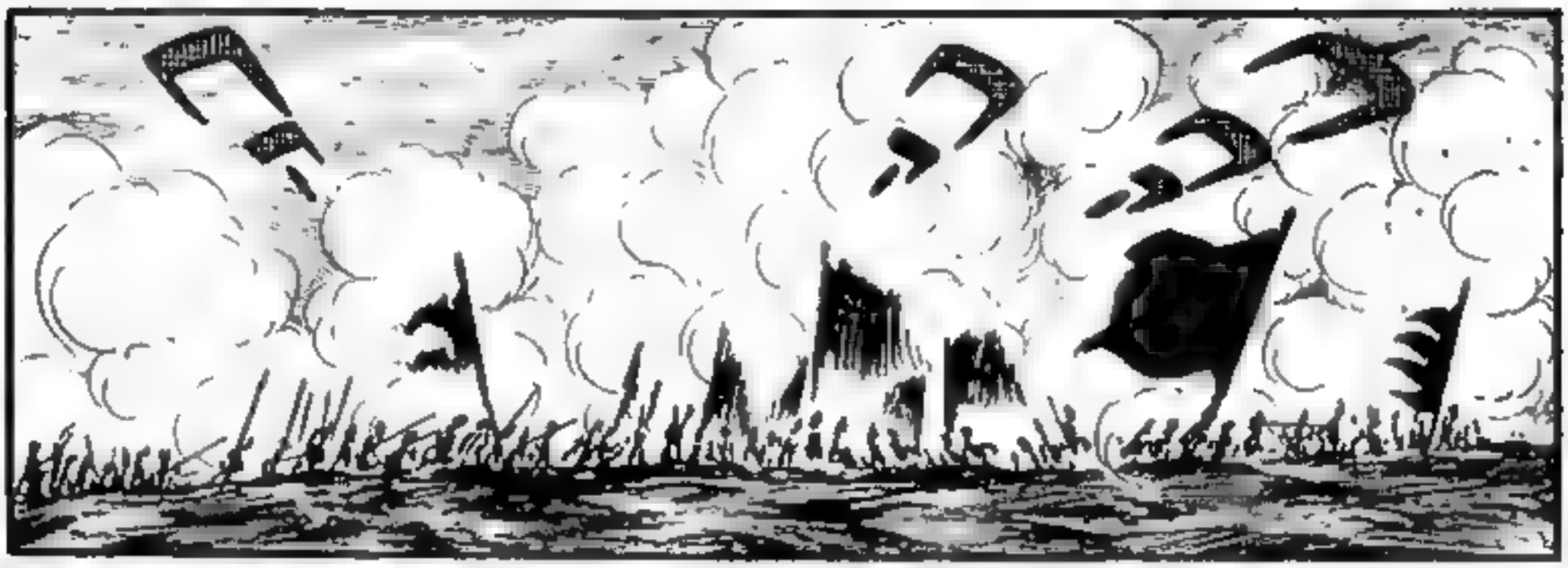
YAN LIANG IS WREAKING HAVOC AS USUAL, MY LORD...

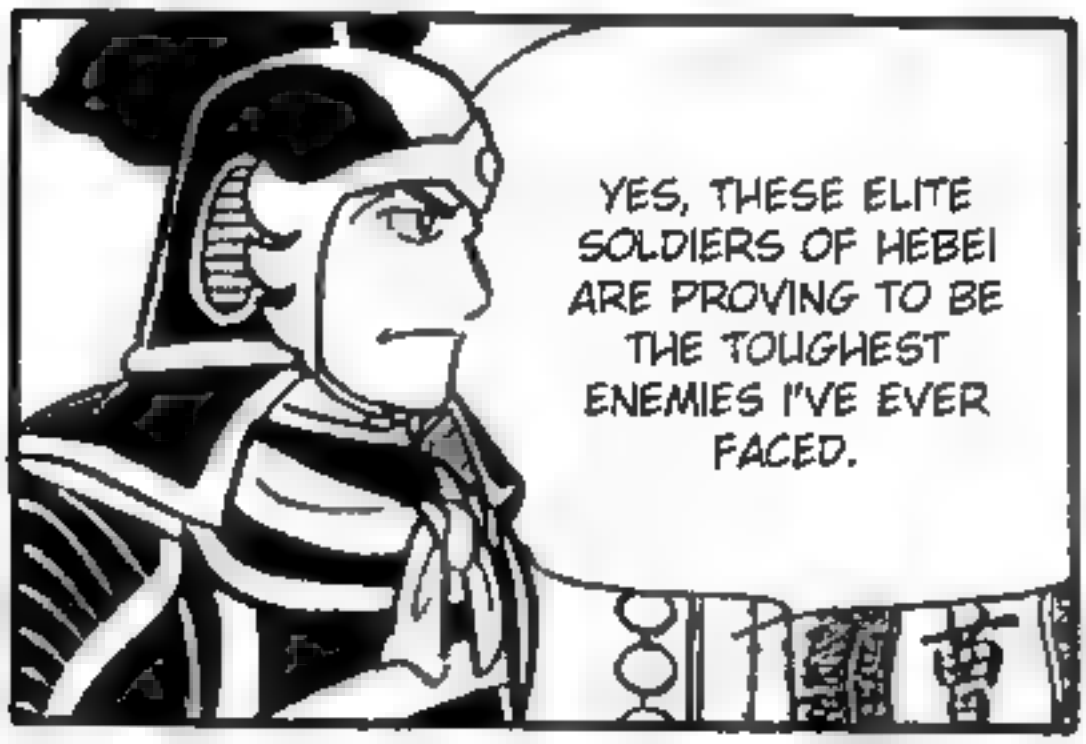
MY LORD! GUAN YU HAS ARRIVED!

AH, GREAT TIMING, GUAN YU.

YES, THANK YOU.
I HAVE COME AT THE GREATEST SPEED POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE RED HARE SIR HAS BESTOWED ME WITH.

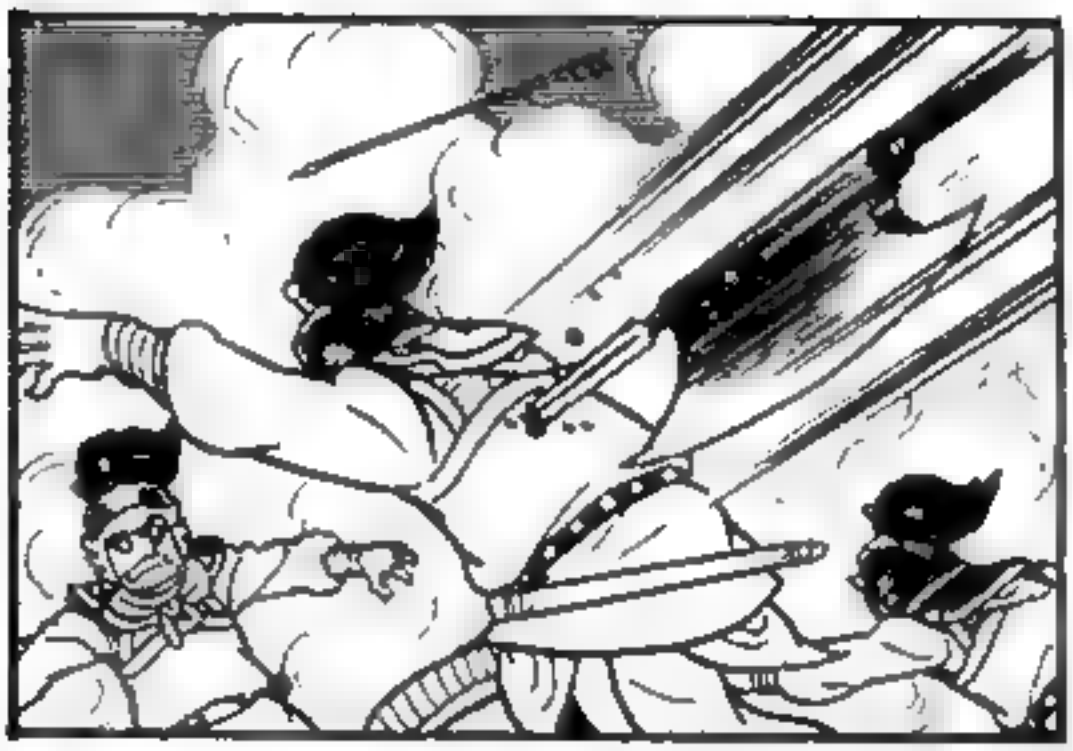
TAKE A LOOK AT THE BATTLE.

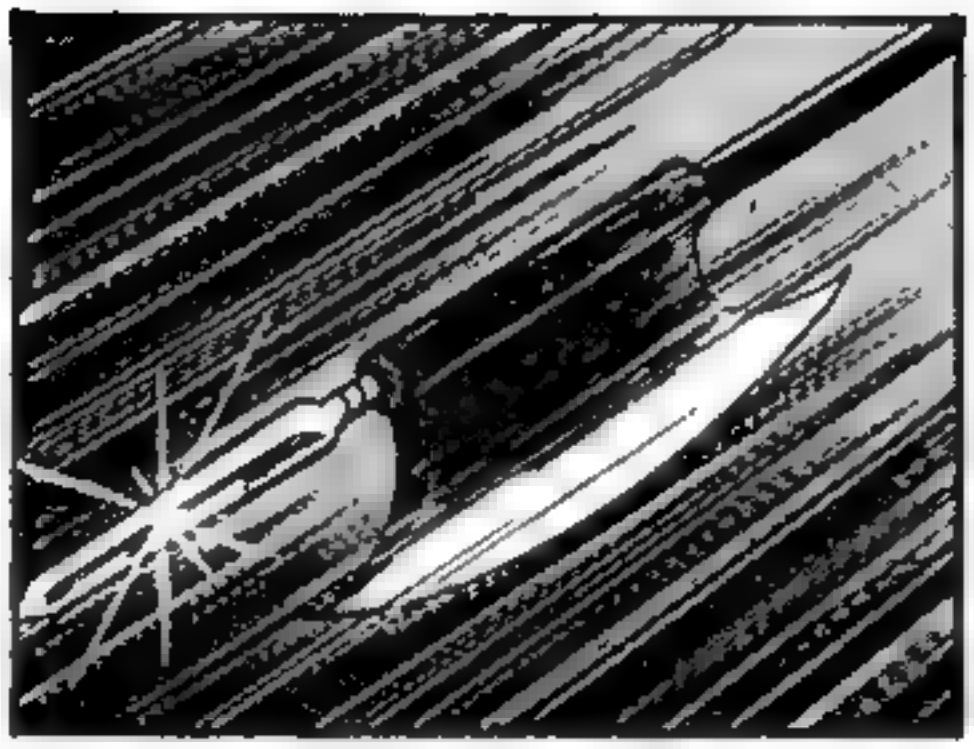



YES, THESE ELITE SOLDIERS OF HEBEI ARE PROVING TO BE THE TOUGHEST ENEMIES I'VE EVER FACED.

WE SEEM TO BE AT A DIS-ADVANTAGE.

BUT THE REAL PROBLEM IS THAT MAN OVER THERE.
YAN LIANG





I SEE. ALLOW ME TO TAKE CARE OF HIM, CHANCELLOR.

MY SOLDIERS FLEE AT THE MERE SIGHT OF HIM.

I'M AFRAID HE'S NOT A MAN THAT CAN BE "TAKEN CARE OF" SO EASILY.

JUST SIT HERE COMFORTABLY AND WATCH ME, SIR.

KNOW THAT GUAN YU YUNCHANG IS HERE! ONLY STAND IN MY WAY IF YOU DO NOT VALUE YOUR LIVES!

顔

GET HIM!

COCKY BASTARD!

SO BE IT, I SHALL SEND YOU TO YOUR DEATHS!

顔

W-WE GOT A TOUGH ONE ON OUR HANDS...!

AGH!

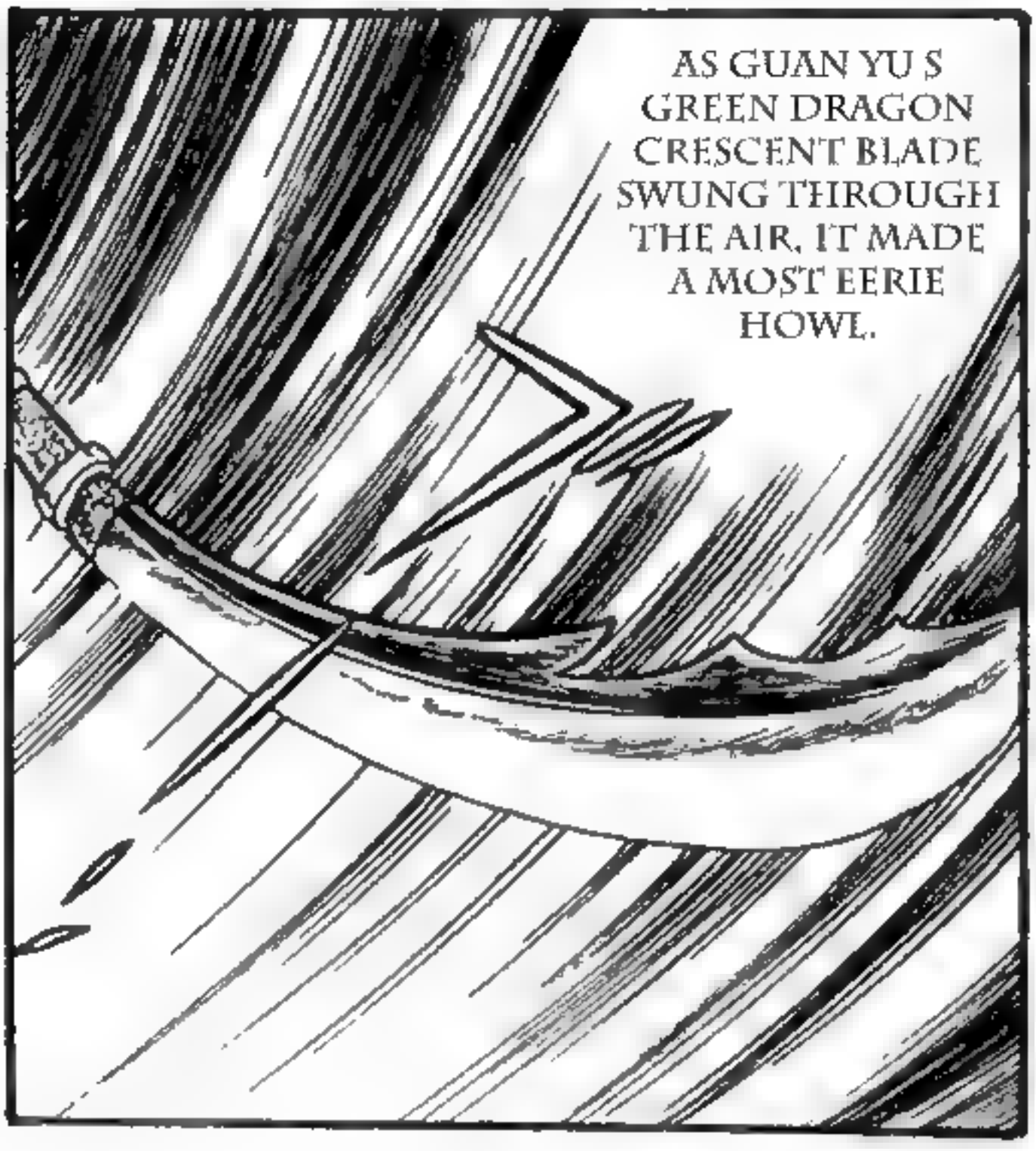
YAN LIANG!

YES? IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT FROM ME?

HAHA, YOU TALK BIG.

WHY YES, YOUR HEAD.

NOTHING BUT ANOTHER FOOL RUSHING TOWARDS HIS DEATH!


AS GUAN YU S GREEN DRAGON CRESCENT BLADE SWUNG THROUGH THE AIR, IT MADE A MOST EERIE HOWL.

IT'S SPEED AND POWER WAS FAR BEYOND YAN LIANG'S ABILITIES TO DODGE OR BLOCK.

AGHHHH!

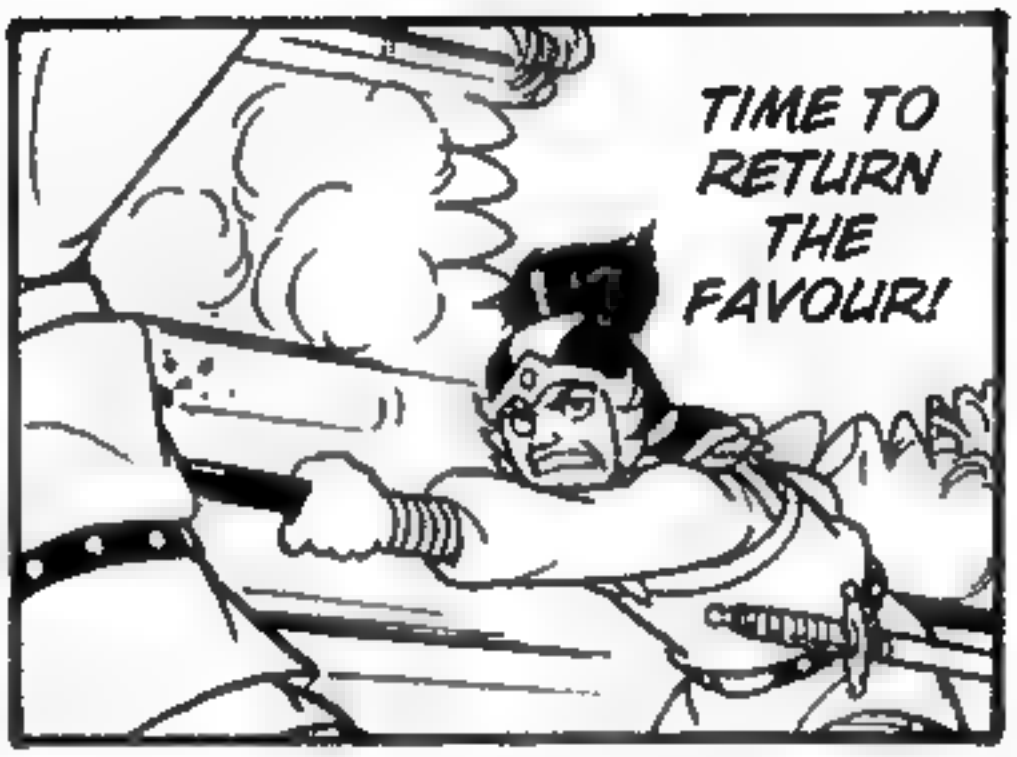
WHA ...!?

ALL UNITS CHARGE!

WORDS DO NOT EVEN BEGIN TO DESCRIBE HIS SKILL...

WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT... WITH A SINGLE BLOW, EVEN YAN LIANG HAS FALLEN TO GUAN YU.

WITH YAN LIANG GONE, TAKING CARE OF YOU LOT COULDN'T BE EASIER!


TIME TO RETURN THE FAVOUR!

YOUR SKILLS ARE ALMOST DEMONIC, NO MAN COULD HOPE TO COMPETE AGAINST YOU.

I AM UNDESERVING OF SUCH LAVISH PRAISE, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THAT I KNOW OF ONE STRONGER THAN ME.

YES, I SAW YOUR MAGNIFICENT BLOW FROM HERE.

YAN LIANG HAS BEEN DEALT WITH, CHANCELLOR.

THAT WOULD BE MY YOUNGER BROTHER, ZHANG FEI.

WHAT!? AND JUST WHO IS THIS MAN...?

.....

IT APPEARS THAT GENERAL YAN LIANG HAS BEEN SLAIN, MY LORD.

WASN'T OUR ARMY IN BAIMA SUPPOSEDLY ON THE VERGE OF VICTORY ACCORDING TO THE LAST REPORT? WHY THE SUDDEN REVERSAL?

APPARENTLY, IT WAS A MAN NAMED GUAN YU YUNCHANG.

WHAT!? AND JUST WHO IS THIS MAN STRONG ENOUGH TO BEST YAN LIANG?

IF I RECALL CORRECTLY, HE IS LIU BEI'S SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER.

YOU KNOW HIM?

GUAN YU?

CAN YOU GIVE ME ANY MORE DETAILS?

WHAT!?

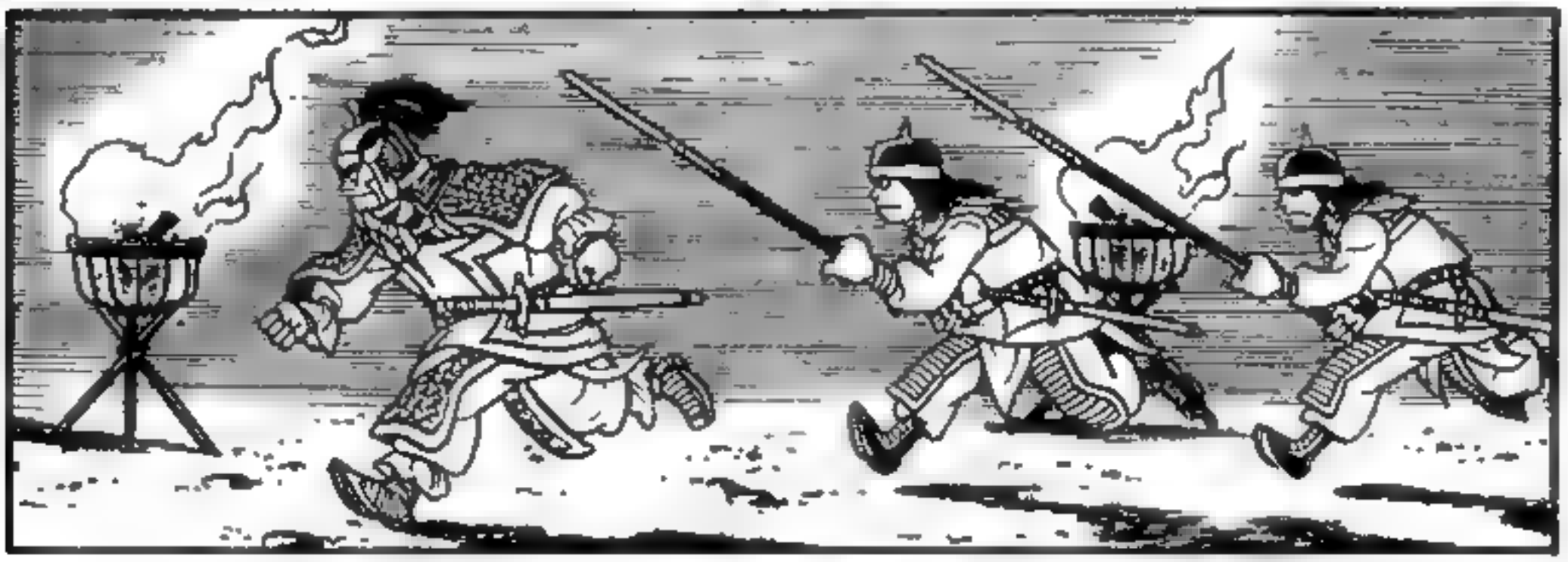
IF THIS REPORTED ATTACKER REALLY IS LIU BEI'S BROTHER THEN COULD THAT MEAN LIU BEI HAS DOUBLE-CROSSED ME...?

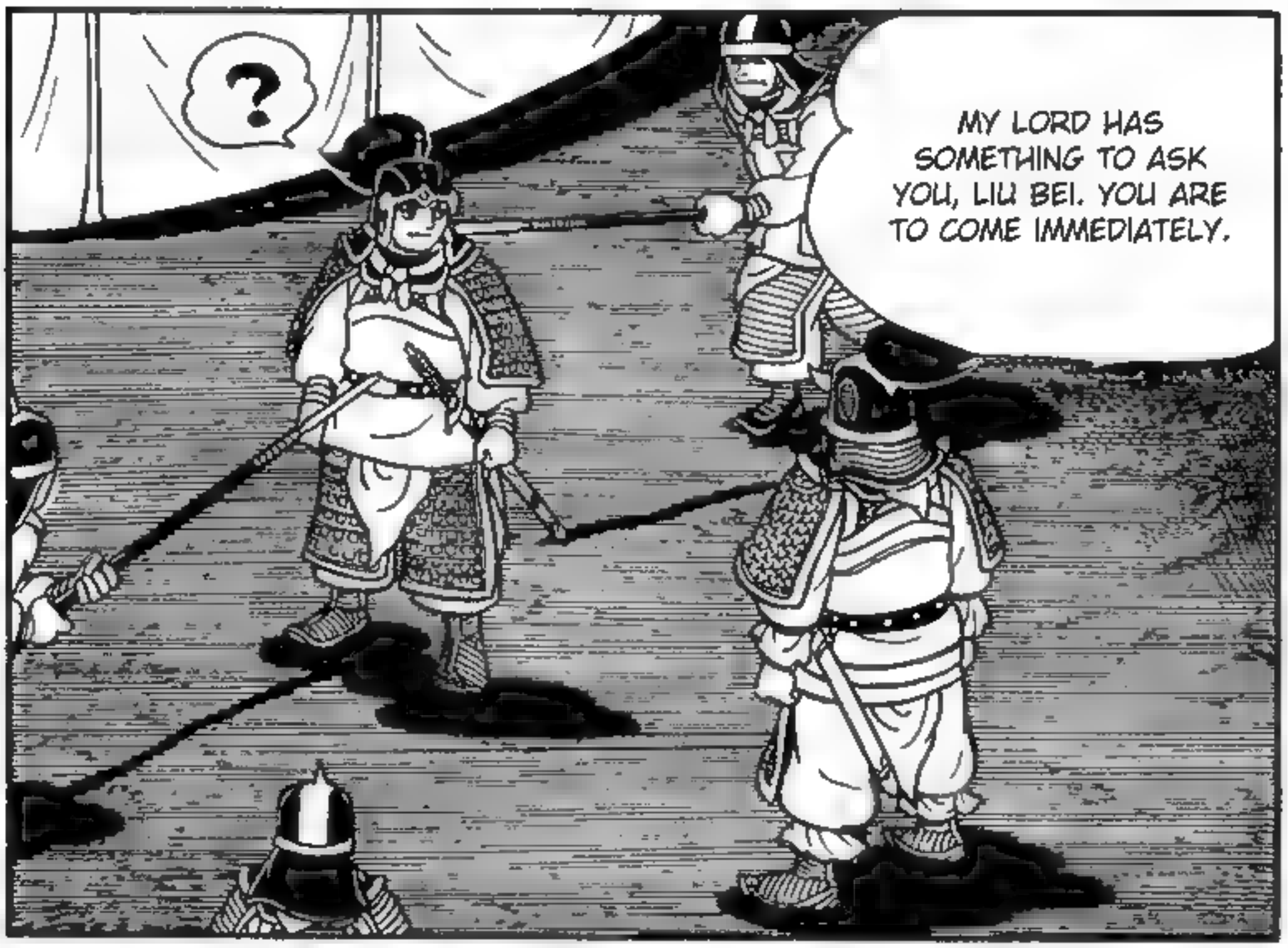
MNN...

THE REPORT SAID THAT A MAN WITH AN EXTREMELY LONG BEARD WIELDING A GUANDAO SUDDENLY APPEARED AND FELL YAN LIANG WITH ONE SWING.

YES, MY LORD.

BRING LIU BEI TO ME NOW!




?
MY LORD HAS SOMETHING TO ASK YOU, LIU BEI. YOU ARE TO COME IMMEDIATELY.

YOU WILL UNDERSTAND SOON ENOUGH.

WHAT'S GOING ON!? JUST WHAT AM I GUILTY OF?

TELL ME, SIR, WHAT HAVE I DONE WRONG?

I HAVE BROUGHT LIU BEI, MY LORD.

TRAITOR...?

SILENCE! I'LL ASK THE QUESTIONS, YOU TRAITOR!

WHAT! GUAN YU...!?

TRYING TO PLAY ME FOR THE FOOL, ARE YOU NOW!? I KNOW THAT YOUR BROTHER GUAN YU HAS KILLED MY GENERAL, YAN LIANG!

GUARS! OFF WITH THIS TRAITOR'S HEAD!

YOU'RE COL-LUDING WITH CAO CAO, AREN'T YOU!?

BUT THE REPORTS SAY THAT YOUR BROTHER GUAN YU IS WORKING UNDER CAO CAO!
PLEASE WAIT, SIR! I HAVE LOST XUZHOU TO CAO CAO AND BEEN ALMOST KILLED BY HIS ARMY. JUST WHY WOULD I CONSPIRE WITH HIM AGAINST YOU, MY SAVIOUR?

WHAT!?

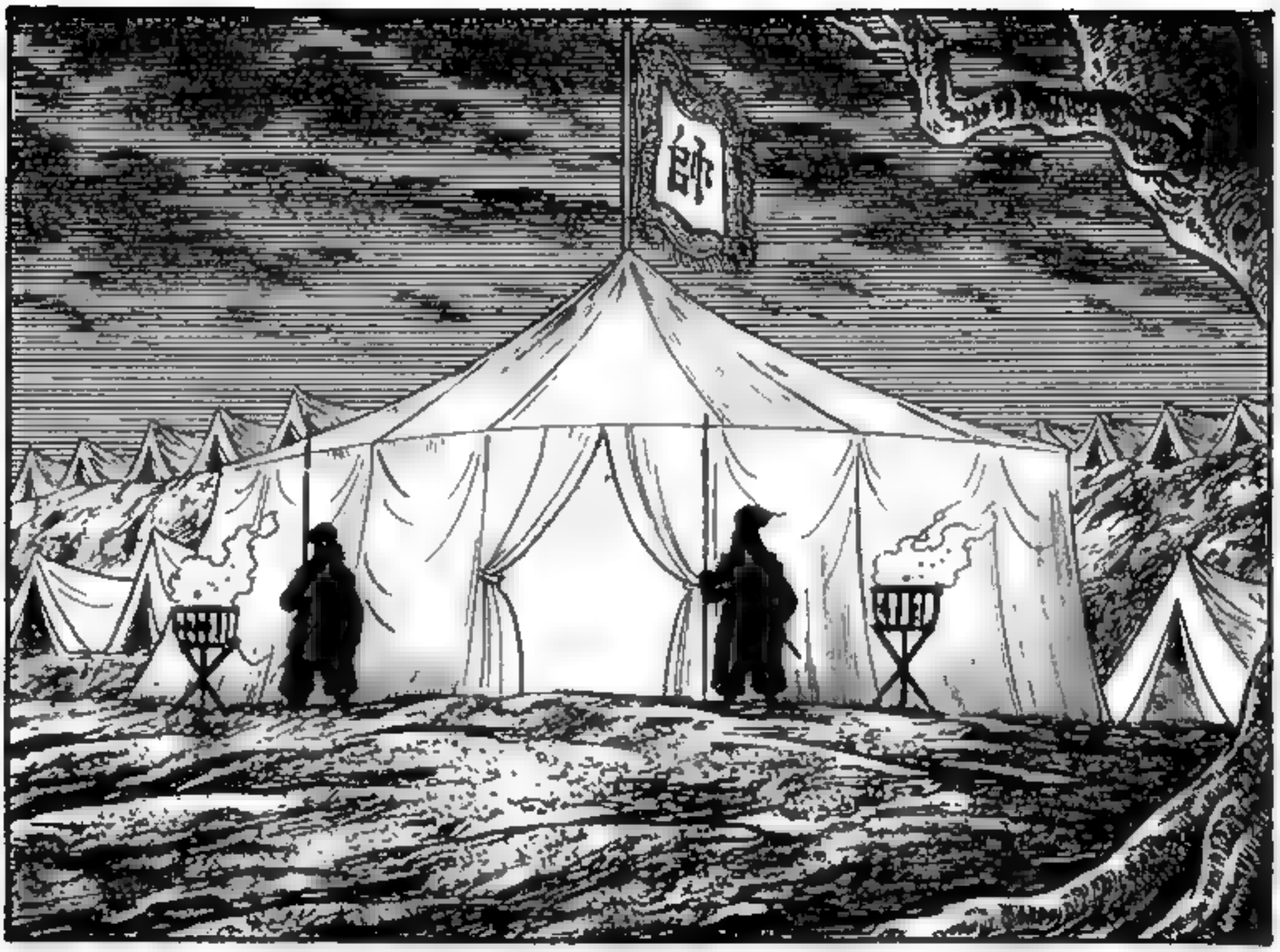
BUT DOES SIR HAVE ANY PROOF THAT IT WAS REALLY GUAN YU WHO KILLED YAN LIANG?

MOREOVER, EVER SINCE MY DEFEAT AT XUZHOU, I HAVE LOST ALL CONTACT WITH BOTH MY BROTHERS.

CAO CAO IS SKILLED IN THE ART OF DECEPTION. THIS MAY BE A PLOY OF HIS TO THROW US INTO DISORDER.

FORGIVE MY SHORT TEMPER. I SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO FLING SUCH WILD ACCUSATIONS WITH NO PROOF.

HMM, YOU'RE RIGHT. THE CRAFTY CAO CAO WOULD CERTAINLY BE CAPABLE OF SUCH TRICKS.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WHO DO YOU THINK WOULD BE BEST CAPABLE FOR THAT?

NOW THAT YANG LIANG IS DEAD, WE NEED SOMEONE ELSE TO LEAD THE VANGUARD.

AH, WEN CHOU.

ALLOW ME, MY LORD.

I SEE.

YAN LIANG WAS LIKE A BROTHER TO ME. PLEASE ALLOW ME TO AVENGE HIS DEATH.

NOW, AS FOR THE BATTLE PLAN...

ALRIGHT, I SHALL APPOINT YOU AS THE NEW VANGUARD LEADER.

THERE IS NO NEED FOR COMPLEX PLANNING, MY LORD. I SHALL CROSS THE YELLOW RIVER AND QUICKLY ROUT CAO CAO'S FORCES.

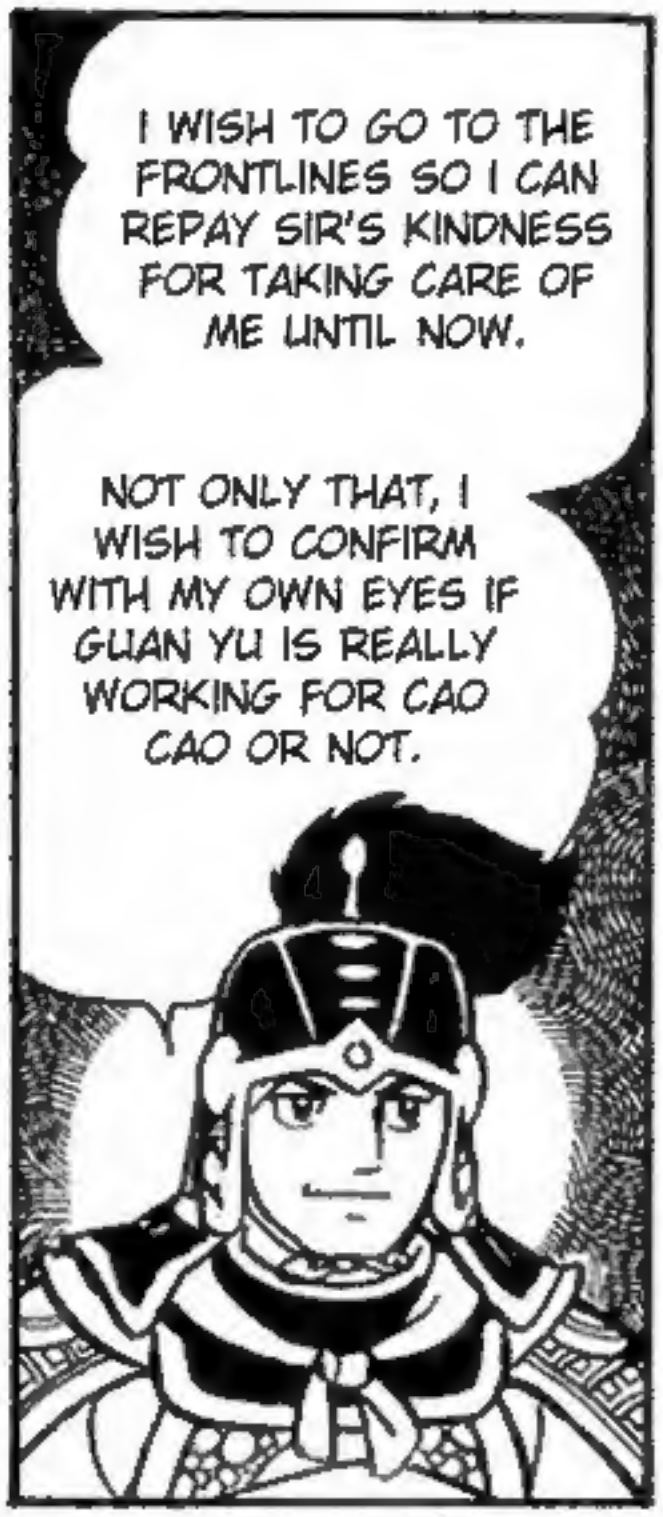
WEN CHOU'S PLAN IS MUCH TOO RECKLESS AND RISKY.

IF I MAY INTERJECT...

SILENCE! DON'T YOU KNOW THAT SPEED IS THE ESSENCE OF WAR!? ENOUGH OF YOUR OMINOUS TALK, YOU'LL ONLY LOWER THE MORALE!

WE SHOULD DIVIDE OUR FORCES AND SECURE YENJIN AND GUANDU BEFORE MOVING OUR ARMY AHEAD. IF WE CROSS THE YELLOW RIVER NOW AND SOMETHING WERE TO GO WRONG, NOT A SINGLE SOUL WILL RETURN.

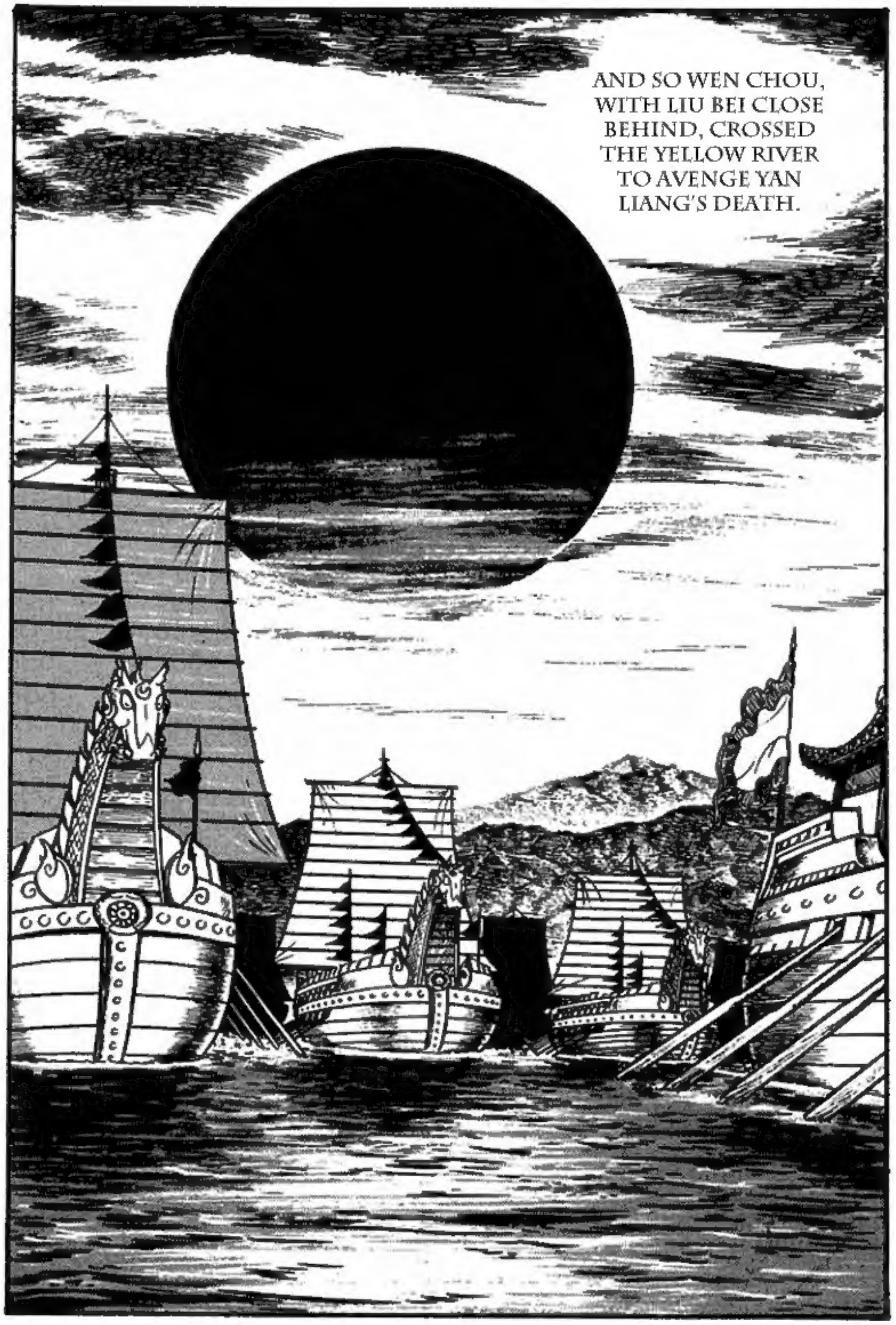
YES, MY LORD.
I WANT YOU TO DEPART RIGHT AWAY, WEN CHOU.


I WISH TO GO TO THE FRONTLINES SO I CAN REPAY SIR'S KINDNESS FOR TAKING CARE OF ME UNTIL NOW.
NOT ONLY THAT, I WISH TO CONFIRM WITH MY OWN EYES IF GUAN YU IS REALLY WORKING FOR CAO CAO OR NOT.

WHAT?
SIR, I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE VANGUARD AS WELL.

THANK YOU, SIR.
FINE, YOU SHALL LEAD THE 2ND FRONT BEHIND WEN CHOU.

YES, OF COURSE.



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